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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 1

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

O MAGNIFY THE LORD WITH ME

O magnify the Lord with me,
All ye that bear His name;
His faithfulness and sov'reignty
Forever are the same.

He is the soul's unfailing spring,
Its full orb'd summer noon;
The autumn of its harvesting,
Its winter's restful boon.

All times and seasons of the soul,
Revolve His will around;
The universe itself pays toll
To make its life abound.

So is its life secure and free
Because He leads the way;
At length it shares eternally
With God His perfect day.

O sing with me, both young and old,
Of His unchanging ways;
And let His goodness manifold
Forever be our praise.

- Calvin W. Laufer

THE BEST OF TIMES: THE WORST OF TIMES

As we prepare to exchange an old year for a new, we have the opportunity to both look back and ahead. As we look back we can see what has been done, whether it has been what we would like to have upon God's record of our lives or whether it would displease Him. Looking back may be very beneficial. History can reveal the good things of the past and how they came about. As much as we may enjoy the study of history, let us remember that we are now on the stage of action. The present is the time for us to be active in forming our future. Now is the time for us to be putting together the history that we will be looking back at next year or even further along the road of time. Now is the time for us to insure that that future look back will be pleasant and edifying.

As this year closes and the new begins, we are aware of the times in which we live. In comparison with most other areas in this world we are living in material luxury. We can enjoy the ease of many conveniences in our homes and work. We are living in times of plenty and prosperity. We do not have just the necessities of life, which are lacking in many parts of the world. Luxuries have come to seem like necessities. Even those who seek to live a simpler and less hectic life find themselves unable to give up many of these conveniences that were unknown even a generation ago. No longer is a car for the whole family enough but each driver needs one. Vacation time, whether in summer or winter, finds people traveling. Travel is fast, fairly safe and relatively inexpensive. Unlike in many nations, the stores are stocked often to the ceiling with the goods people want. And if they become overstocked an

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advertising campaign with coupons, contests or sale prices will soon bring customers to empty the shelves. All of these wonderful things from our investment, manufacturing and merchandising capacities make our current times the best of times. There are so many wonders and so many necessary luxuries in our lives that surely these are the best of times. As we survey the year past and prepare to move into the new year we can see that our present is such an interesting time in which to live.

Verily, these are the best of times. But these good times may actually be the worst of times. Not a one of us would want to give up the ease of living that we have grown accustomed to. Yet for the benefit of our souls it might be well for us to find an escape from the wonderful times we are living in. The material prosperity and the physical and sensual activities about us have an effect upon our Spiritual lives. To attain or maintain the material prosperity that is desired we must invest a great deal of time and effort. This time and effort may be stolen from that which belongs to the Lord. To keep the high standard of living we may force ourselves into a lower standard of Christian living. We do or allow things that a few years ago were either looked down upon or were outright forbidden by the Church.

This decline is shown not only in the things we own, but in the ways we have acquired them. In order to make the money necessary to have what we deem necessary to have an enjoyable life, we have taken jobs that have kept us away from our homes and our families. We have jobs that seem more important than the services of the Church. Either we cannot be at the appointments of the Church or we are so weary that we do not fully enjoy them. Our employment becomes the highest priority for us. Since we no longer are a farming people, our hours and activities are controlled by those who usually have little regard for our Spiritual good. Being tied to these jobs we not only may miss the regular appointments of the Church but also funerals, weddings and other special occasions. Perhaps one of the most serious results is we no longer have the time to visit one another.

So the best of times may actually be the worst of times. While financially and materially we may be prospering, we may be failing in our Spiritual lives. With the ease of obtaining all the objects of this world it is difficult for us to refrain from having the latest and best conveniences and luxuries. With easy credit and constant paychecks we may soon possess all these items along with payments that seem never to cease and call for more striving within the world's workshops to keep up.

We are in this world. We need not be of this world. We need to

examine our priorities to be sure they are centered upon Christ and the Church. In looking back and ahead at this turning of the calendar, let us consider whether these best of times have become the worst of times for our souls.

"N AS IN NOW"

When we talk on the phone, some words are not always easily understood. This is especially true when we spell a word or a name. It helps if we say "B as in boy", "C as in cat", and so forth. Let's consider spelling the words "New Year" over the phone, using these letters to describe our relationship to God. Think of what you might say about your own life and your goals. Think also that whatever you may say, God already knows your heart.

"N as in now" can mean that we are seeking God's Will now, that we are serving Him now and plan to continue to do so. We could also say "N as in no". "No, I don't want to get any further involved in Christian work. It's much too demanding and I won't have enough time left for myself." Are you a "now" person or a "no" person? One little letter makes alot of difference, and one little answer makes alot of difference in our relationship to our Lord.

The next letter is "E as in eternity", or it could be "E as in earth". We either plan our lives around eternity and lasting values, or we plan around earthly, short-term values. We can focus our minds and hearts on that which God will be pleased with, or we can focus on things which mainly please ourselves. Which is it for you?

The last letter of "new" is a bit harder to define, but we could say "W as in whole", meaning wholehearted service. God desires that we serve Him with our whole heart, not just a part of it. Half-hearted service can lead to "W as in why", when we question God's wisdom. "Lord, why do you want me to do all this? Can't someone else do it? I need more time for my own interests." "Why did this happen to me? Why not to someone else? I already had enough to cope with." The "whys" must be set aside if we are to serve God acceptably.

Year begins with "Y as in yes and yield". As a child of God, you should be saying, "Yes, Lord, I will yield my will to Yours. I'll let You have charge of my life." If we don't say "yes" to Jesus, we've said "yes" to Satan, and have yielded to him. Rom. 6:13 says we shouldn't yield to sin, but should instead yield ourselves unto God. Sin is not to reign in our lives, and it won't if we yield to Jesus.

The letter "E as in enrich" is next. We should ask God to enrich our daily lives, and to lift us up in Jesus. We should ask God to enrich the lives of those around us, and especially to save their

souls. "E" could also be as in "empty". That's what we are without Jesus. If our hearts are empty, our lives will be meaningless. Is your life empty, or enriched?

Next, we come to "A as in accept and abide". First, we must accept Jesus without reservation, and then we must abide in Him. This will be a warm, close fellowship, not a cold, distant formality. If we abide in Jesus, we won't be afraid. We won't need to fear the trials of life or the dangers, for our trust will be in Jesus. Which would you say: "A as in abide", or "A as in afraid?"

The last one is "R as in ready or refuse". If you abide in Jesus, you'll be ready to serve Him whenever He calls. If your heart is centered on this life and whatever satisfaction it can give you, you'll refuse whatever God wants to give you. If you abide in Jesus, you'll also be ready to leave this world when your turn comes. But if you refuse Jesus here, and all He has for you, He will refuse to accept you as His own in eternity.

We either have made a positive, wholehearted commitment to God, or we are making a negative, halfhearted (or less) approach. The wholehearted commitment will result in a vibrant, happy life in Jesus. The other will result in a joyless spirit, and spiritual failure. It will be one or the other, because we can't succeed as a Christian while focusing attention on our selves.

We are thinking of a new year. It will be lived one day at a time, for now is all we have. The Bible says we are to walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:4) and now is the time to start. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Cor. 5:17. For a new year which ends right, start it right with Jesus, and walk with Him all year long. "N is for now", the time to serve Jesus.

Sister Eileen Broadwater

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"87"... beginning or end?

The New Years lesson is taken from Acts, Chapter 2. It is a story of a beginning. At the beginning of the book of Acts, we see a waiting Church. Christ had given His commission and blessing and had ascended into Heaven. Now, they were to receive the power of the Holy Spirit. It came at Pentecost or the Jewish harvest festival. This was the time when the Jews came before God, making their offerings and thanking Him for the harvest. The word means "fiftieth day." They started counting at Passover and counted off seven weeks or forty-nine days and the next day was

Pentecost. Jesus, the true Lamb of God, was slain at the time of the Passover and came back and remained forty days... the believers prayed ten days... and now on the fiftieth day, Pentecost had fully come and God sent His power on them.

What were the people doing? They were gathered in one place and all of them were of one accord. In order for you as a Christian to get the blessing and the power, you must be in the right place... you can't get it out in the world. You can't be a "good Christian" and not go to church. You may live a good moral life without going to church, but you will never live a Spirit-filled life. Among God's people, you will receive blessings and power. Suppose Peter or James or John had been absent on the day of Pentecost. They would have missed the blessing and they could never have been the men of power that they were.

These people were also of "one accord." God never works in strife and confusion, but in the place of harmony and unity. We have hundreds of different personalities in our church, but they must be in perfect accord spiritually if we expect to have God work mightily among us. If we have factions and divisions, we need not expect the blessings and the power to come. We are told in Proverbs 6:19 that God hates "he that soweth discord among brethren." What a horrible category to be in.

As the people waited in the house, they heard a strange sound. It didn't come from the market place or from men, but from Heaven. God was sending down His Spirit. Everything that God sends down from Heaven is good. He sent His Only Begotten Son and that was the best gift man has ever received. Now, again, He is sending down another wonderful gift from Heaven. The sound they heard was like that of a rushing mighty wind. We in Kansas can relate to that sound. Sometimes you can actually hear the wind coming before it arrives. In addition to the wind, a flame of fire like a cloven tongue sat upon each of them. Fire cleanses, warms, and empowers, and here, EVERY Christian was cleansed, warmed and empowered.

The Holy Spirit functioned among these people just as He does among us today. He brought important spiritual lessons to their remembrance. He convicted men of sin. He brought comfort and He empowered them for service. In addition, He brought guidance. Will you follow That Guide in 1987. If you will say YES to that question, you will reflect the Spirit filled signs of salvation and it will truly be the beginning of the rest of your life.

You will CONTINUE STEADFASTLY. You won't just have an initial experience and go back to the old way of life. You will continue in the new way. You will be faithful and committed.

You will continue STEADFAST IN DOCTRINE. To BE something, you have to BELIEVE something. Some people says, "It doesn't matter what you believe, just so you are sincere." You might reach into your medicine cabinet in the dark of night and take out what you think is cough syrup but drink a poisonous liquid instead and die. It DOES matter what you believe. Your conservative faith is very important.

You will continue steadfast in BREAKING OF BREAD. This, of course, means the Communion. Jesus said, "This do in remembrance of me." (Luke 22:19) They came to the table as we do and the Holy Spirit made them remember. As they partook of the bread and the cup, they meditated on the broken body and the spilled blood. The Communion is a fresh reminder of the crucified Christ and the coming King. Without it, you will be spiritually weak.

You will continue STEADFAST IN PRAYER.

You will SHARE what you have with others who are in need. The love in your heart for Christ and others will compel you to share your blessings. You will also share the gospel. Everyone, rich or poor, must give something.

You will GO TO CHURCH. If you are a Christian, you can't keep away from the house of God. You must commit church attendance as a top priority in your life... ANYTIME there are services being held there.

You will GO FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE. You will desire to eat with each other and take your faith into other homes. Fellowship is very important to our spiritual wellbeing and I fear that it is lacking in too many churches today. We are too busy for simple fellowship and sharing of the "good life in Christ."

If you desire a new beginning in your life... if you desire to be healed of your 1986 complacency, you can find the joy of salvation through practicing these few principles. Empty your heart of the world, of wrong attitudes... and surrender completely to Jesus. You can then experience a fulfilling new year.

Out in the Rockies some years ago an engineer was taking his fast freight train over a steep mountain grade. Suddenly something went wrong with the air brakes and soon the train was out of control. Just ahead was the river and a bridge which would not stand the impact of this wild train. The fireman jumped to safety on one side and the conductor jumped to safety on the other side. When the train hit the bridge, the bridge gave way and the train plunged down into the water. Later on all the crew was found except the engineer. They thought he might have run off into the woods. But his gray-haired mother said, "No, my son was faithful.

He never left the train. When you lift the wreck you will find him there." So it was. When they lifted the engine, they found him at his post and his hand was still on the throttle. That is the kind of faithfulness you owe Christ! Can that be said of you... "I KNOW WHERE HE IS... HE IS ON THE JOB FOR ME." Will '87 be the beginning or the end of your Christian experience? I pray it will be a year of BEGINNING.

Brother Len Wertz

WHAT WILL WE DO IN THE NEW YEAR?

Again we are approaching the end of another year. What we have done so far is on record for eternity. Also we are approaching the beginning of a New Year, will we start the New Year out right?

Our future plans depend on the Lord being willing. We have no promise of tomorrow in this sinful world. The second coming of Christ will be in an hour that we think not. I remember an Elder, many years ago, who always at the close of a church service said if the Lord willing we will meet and then give the time of the next service.

Whatsoever we do, do all to the honor and glory of God. I suppose none of us, if Christ were to come, would want Him to find us engaged in the using of intoxicating liquor, tobacco or dope that are harmful to this earthly tabernacle. We are commanded to present it holy and acceptable unto God which is our reasonable service. Touch not, handle not the unclean things. The Christian is the temple of the living God. Whosoever defiles this temple, him will God destroy.

True Christians will not resort to violence. Do good unto all men especially unto the household of faith. We should always use a spirit of love and kindness in giving advice and instructions to others. We need the fruits of the spirit. If we show envy we may become stumbling blocks. Deeds of kindness and words of love make the world an Eden like the Heaven above.

It is sad to know sometimes professing Christians will resort to placing unjust hardships upon others. Bear ye one another's burdens and fulfill the law of Christ. In the first part of this century people were much more to help one another than they are now. Doing good for others is resorting to the laying up treasures in Heaven. Are we gathering sheaves for the Master's bouquet representing flowers that will never decay?

The true Christian has no time for the evils of the world. Today Satan is out as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour.

It would be of great value for us to meditate upon great men of God who are recorded in His Holy Word. The record of Christ who faithfully fulfilled His mission which gives eternal salvation to all who will receive it. Also the record of other great men of God who faithfully served the Lord and were determined to go forward and never lay their armour down and looked forward to the crown of righteousness at the end of their pathway.

Also meditate upon our faithful foreparents, their labors and their firm stand against the evils of the world. They did much in the upbuilding of God's kingdom here on earth, which contributed to the making of our nation great. Satan is the author of sin and wickedness which has turned our nation away from the high standard of morality that existed among our faithful foreparents many years ago.

The harvest is great and the labourers are few. We should labour for the Master from the dawn to setting sun. We should not sow to the flesh but rather sow to the Spirit that will contribute to our treasures in Heaven if we remain faithful and true to the end. Our trials and temptations here will only make us richer there. Professing Christians who show envy toward others need repentance and conversion as it hinders the upbuilding of God's kingdom here on earth.

We should labour for the salvation of souls. We should not be among the forgetful hearers of the saving Gospel of Christ, who impose their selfish ideas upon others. The spirit of selfishness does not exist among those who are filled with the Holy Spirit. Today there are many who have established their own righteousness and have not the righteousness of God. Let us take the saving Gospel of Christ as our guide and not man made theorems in religion. Christ said if ye love Me, keep my commandments. He taught and exemplified the Golden Rule.

Because of the uncertainty of life in this world we should always be prepared for the glorious eternity.

Brother J. F. Marks
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PRESSING FOR THE PRIZE

"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Phil. 3:4.

What does it mean to press? We see an example. To press takes two things, force and a resistance. Now we can see what Paul was saying in Phillipians. Every Christian who is trying to do what is

right knows about pressing, first hand. But, there are a couple things we may not have considered about pressing. The only way to grow strong is to press. Building muscles requires us to work, press against a resistance. In the spiritual life that takes on many different angles. When we pray for patience, God allows us trying situations to press against. What we expect is for Him to make it easy. But without pressing we don't develop patience. So when someone does something to us and we must forgive, we need to accept this as an opportunity to build forgiveness muscles. How many times do we react in anger or vengeance? We decide we will teach them a lesson and justify it by saying it is for their good. James says, "Count it all joy when ye fall into divers (many different) temptations." James 1:12.

So even temptations are another way we press. The more temptations satan sends our way, the stronger we become to deny our own lusts and submit to God. How many times have we wished we would never be tempted again. But can we imagine what weak Christians we would be? just like a man who never worked! The strongest man ever against temptation, Jesus, was tempted as no other man!

In Mark 5:25-34 is a wonderful lesson on pressing. This woman with an issue of blood had to press through the crowd. Get a picture of her. She was possibly weak due to her physical condition. But she set her goal on Jesus. Verses 27-28. That must be our sole purpose for pressing. Anything else is pride. She put out a great deal of effort to get to Him! Faith that Jesus would meet her need! Verse 34 "Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague." We must have faith that Jesus is our only answer! We are not pressing just to please someone else, or to look good, or just to receive in this world. But we must believe Jesus will receive us because He loves us, not because we are good. So our failures while we are pressing won't discourage us. Now, the thought in Matthew 11:12 comes to light. "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force."

The devil will oppose our every step as we walk our Christian walk. He will cause people to insult us, find fault with us.

He will point out our failures, (and nobody is perfect), he is the accuser of the brethren. Rev. 12:10.

He will discourage us by telling us that we are not accomplishing anything. It is not by sight but by faith. When we obey God's calling in our lives, we receive the results by faith.

Or he will tell us we could live a better life if we weren't Christians, or weren't following God's purpose for our lives. There

is no joy outside of obedience to God's call on our lives, only passing happiness or fun. True contentment is to be satisfied where God has called us. Paul says, "For I have learned in whatever state I am, therewith to be content. Phil. 4:11.

And the list of oppositions could go on and on....

Let us deny self, have faith in the saving, sustaining love of Jesus, and press on against the resistance of satan to new strength and victories through Jesus Christ our Lord!

"Till we all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God unto a perfect man unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. That we henceforth be no more children tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine by the sleight of men and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in LOVE, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the Head, even Christ." Eph. 4:13-15.

Brother Paul H. Mellott
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SIXTY YEARS AGO

January 1, 1927

HOW SHALL THE YOUNG BE WON?

J. H. Crofford

Christ died for the sins of the whole world, salvation is for all: "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely", without money and without price. The young without financial means have the same privilege of access to the plan of salvation as the older ones who are blessed with plenty of this world's goods. They need no money to spend at church festivals and entertainments, and to make a show of their giving to Sunday schools on their birthday anniversaries.

Jesus loves the young as well as the aged, and vice versa. When he was here upon the earth, he took little children in his arms and blessed them, and he said: "suffer them to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." My dear young people, He suffered and died for you, He brought for you the plan of salvation. Love brought Him down, and He "saves us through grace." He gave you a work to perform to test your love for Him. The pleasure you derive from this work of obedience to His will, is the consciousness of pleasing Him, a fear — not an apprehension of punishment — of displeasing Him, of doing or leaving

undone things which, would cause the dear Savior to feel that His mission into the world was in vain, that there is no love in the hearts of the people for Him.

His mission in the world was to prepare for Himself a bride, the church, which must measure up to a standard of perfection, to be accepted by Him when He comes to take unto Himself His bride. Remember the ten virgins who were bidding to become this bride — five dillitary and negligent of their duty, were rejected.

My young sisters, you have some conception of the duties of a bride; you know the first concern of a true bride is a fear of doing that which will displease and the pleasure in doing the things that will please him. One among the first things she does, is to forsake her former single associates and cleave to her husband, and associate more with married people. She accompanies her husband; she does what he bids her do, and attires her person in a way she thinks most attractive to him.

Now do you know if you (male and female, for it takes both to make up the bride of Christ) love Jesus more than a bride loves her husband, you will do more for Him. It will be a pleasure to forsake your worldly associates and the sinful pleasures of this world for Him. The bride's mind is renewed or changed from former associates and pleasures to the pleasing of her husband. Likewise the bride of Christ is instructed: "Be not conformed to the world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind."

The mind being renewed, the desires are naturally changed. You will not think of bobbing your hair and dishonor your head. You will not be conformed to the world in your attire: clothes that bare parts of the body which should be covered, thereby inviting the approaches of licentious men, seeking the destruction of your virtue, leading you into the forbidden act of fornication. You will shun the dancing floor, the object of which is to inflame lust and overcome your person. You will absent yourselves from picnics, socials, and all kinds of parties where the doings and conduct are such that you will not feel to have Jesus come upon you there. The masquerade parties must certainly be an abomination in His sight, yet while I am writing these lines, one of the women living next door to us is spending the evening in hideous attire at just such a party in one of the parsonages in this town. With the love for Jesus in their hearts, they could not grieve Him so by turning homes of the ministry into places of such heathenish performance.

Learn what Jesus has done for you. Learn the character of His life. Learn to love Him for those things, and the desire to obey His commands and the church's demands according to the spirit of His gospel, will naturally follow. Then comes the Holy Spirit, the

Comforter, to guide you into all truth. He will remain with you as long as you are sincere and honest in your service; but when doubt enters your heart and you begin to do the things you know are not right, like violating the Scriptures and church rules when you think you are not seen by other members, you begin to weaken, and you fail to see the Truth; you cannot even be convinced that there is any virtue in being different from the world, you cannot renew them unto repentance. (Heb. 6:4-6)

How many old elders and ministers do you know who used to preach with all the God given power they possessed against the evils of the world, who now participate in the very things they used to condemn, and no persuasion now can make them see the wrong in what they are doing? One of the mainstays in the church in years gone by, preached in our town three years ago and said in one of his sermons: "I am ashamed now of the sermons I preached thirty-five years ago." One good thing is he apparently is shorn of his power, for he no longer is looked up to as a counselor and minister as he used to be.

The one great essential to obedience and a Christian life is love. The pleasures and fashions of the world are inviting and fascinating to the unconverted. The Christ life is just the opposite; it sees no pleasure in the foolish things of the world, but, the liberalist says: "That is narrow mindedness", although the Word says: "The friendship of the world is enmity with God." The result is almost all kinds of amusements that the young love, are introduced or allowed in the churches in order to entice them into the nominal church and the result is it is filled with the unconverted. You are not even taught to love Jesus or His cause sufficiently to give of your means for its support, without first loving self more, for which you make purchases or investments to satisfy your appetite or longings, and call it "giving to the Lord." A festival or big supper must be prepared and the eats advertised to appeal to the palates of the people to loosen their purse strings to fill their bellies on occasions when funds are needed. There is not enough of the love of Jesus in their hearts for them to walk up to the treasurer and lay down their offering without receiving something for self.

As for their attire, they cannot deny themselves of the fashions of the world; the wearing of gold and costly array for the Master, but how eager they are to don the uniform of any worldly organization with which they may unite.

Teach the young to consider the position of Jesus when He enjoyed all the pleasures and beauties of heaven, but for the love He had for us denied Himself of it all and came down into this world as the poorest of the poor where He suffered the taunts and jeers of

the people, and finally suffered that awful death on the cross that it might be possible for us to enjoy heaven with Him through all eternity. If He did so much for us we certainly can love Him enough to suffer some of the remarks which may be made about us for being different from the world in our dress and deportment while we live out our short lives, for remember, we only pass through life once, there will be no coming back to make amends; our mistakes will be for eternity and His judgment we cannot escape.

OBITUARY

FORREST R. DIEHL

Forrest R. Diehl, age 85 years, 5 months and 6 days, passed away Monday morning, November 17, at Good Samaritan Hospital. He was formerly of 10910 Old Dayton Road, New Lebanon, Ohio, where he was a prominent farmer for many years.

He was a long time member of the Englewood Dunkard Brethren Church, where he served as a Deacon since 1927.

Forrest is survived by his sister, Ivone, who is residing in the Brookhaven Rest Home, Brookville, Ohio. Also, one nephew, six nieces and many other relatives and friends survive. Two brothers and two sisters preceded him in death.

Funeral services were held on November 20, 1986 at Rogers & Holp Funeral Home by Brother Edward Johnson assisted by Brother Paul Stump and Brother William Heisey. Interment was in the Eversole Cemetery.

NEWS ITEMS

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The newly reorganized Bethel Congregation held their first Lovefeast December 6, 1986. Visiting ministers with us during the day were: Presiding Elder Eugene Kauffman, Frank Shaffer, Merle Sweitzer, Ronald Marks, Paul Hartz and Virgil Leatherman. Bro. Leatherman officiated in the evening with approximately ninety communicants surrounding the tables.

At a recent Council Meeting, the voice of the church was taken to elect a minister and a deacon. After scripture reading and prayer, Bro. David Aungst was called to the ministry and Bro. Marlin Marks was called to the deacon's office. May we remember these brethren with our prayers, love and support.

The Bethel Congregation is now worshipping at our school building located along Route 419, one mile south of Interstate 78 Exit 6. The Lord willing, we plan to begin building a church house in the spring of 1987.

During this past year, four precious souls were taken into our number.

To all the brethren and sisters who have remembered this congregation in prayer, we ask that you might continue to pray for us as we labor for Christ's kingdom, that Satan be defeated and that God would "BIND US TOGETHER" in His love.

Sister Fern Kegerreis, Cor.

THANK YOU

Words cannot express our appreciation for the care and concern shown to us during Harold's illness.

For the greetings, notes and gifts, above all for the many prayers in our behalf, we say thank you and may God richly bless each one.

In Christian love,
Sister Ruth Kleinhen

THANK YOU

To all of you who wrote to Sister Hilda F. Strayer on her 90th birthday, thanks so much. If I counted right she got fifty-five cards. God bless each one.

She still lives with us, Homer and Rosalie Mellott at R. #5 Box 163, Oakland, MD 21550.

In Christian love,
Sister Rosalie Mellott

"TASTY RECIPES" COOKBOOK

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Sister Yvonne Mallow

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BIBLE MONITOR

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JANUARY 15, 1987

NO. 2

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

IN GOD WE TRUST

On the money of this nation
"In God we Trust" we read...
Yet so many don't realize
On His Word we should feed.

There's a longing need to seek God —
To know Him through His Word —
And if we search we can find Him
Through preaching that we've heard.

We must also read and study
Our knowledge to improve
So we're not ashamed before God —
To show ourselves approved.

We must rightly divide His Word,
Then obey and love Him...
Never stop trusting that He'll lead,
Or let our light grow dim.

- Sister Irene Stout
R. 1 Box 160
Wabash, IN 46992

THE COMMON FAITH

"Faith", like "love", "good" and many other common oft-repeated words, is easy to use but often hard to define. We know in our hearts and minds what we mean yet we can not find the right words to describe it to someone else. "Faith" is a trust or belief yet somehow it is deeper than our usual understanding of these words. Faith is also the practical implementation of what we believe. It is both a mental and emotional process and an obedient, doctrinal labor in Christian living.

The Apostle Jude speaks of a common faith. Really, in one sense, it is an uncommon faith for there are relatively few who exercise it or exercise in it. There are few, just as Jesus said, who would find and tread the narrow road leading to eternal life. The narrow way is expounded throughout the Bible but few find it because it requires humility to submit to the terms set by God.

Faith once found is common because it is the same for all who do find it. It is not one set of beliefs for one person or group and something else for another group. There is one God, one Lord, and one Saviour who is the object of our common belief. Belief may be expressed in various other philosophies and teachings but the belief that qualifies for the narrow way is limited to Biblical faith. Whatever is more or less than the Biblical revelation is in error and is not the faith that will successfully deliver an adherent to the blissful shores of Heaven.

Cultural differences are not reasons to change the faith. Paul calls "for obedience to the faith among all nations." Rom. 1:5b. No matter what nation, tribe, language or group the Gospel is pro-

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claimed to, the faith is the same. It does not vary because of past cultural practices or to appease those who might oppose some of the seemingly peculiar practices established by the Bible. The common faith has a common set of beliefs. They cannot vary and still be common.

The common faith takes in both Jew and Gentile. Though their backgrounds are so very different, the dividing partition is broken down and they can be of one belief and practice in Christ. The Gospel of Christ is "the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Rom. 1:16b. Because Jesus came as a Jew and lived as a Jew, they had first opportunity to accept Him but they didn't and the Way is now open to all. Jesus died for the sins of all men. His great substitutionary gift was not just for one race or tribe. It was for all.

The Jew had an advantage by having the Old Testament. The Old Testament looked forward to the New Testament. The Jews should have recognized Jesus as their Christ from what they had been taught before but they failed to comprehend. "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith." Rom. 1:17a. The Jews had the Old Testament faith to lead them to the New Testament faith. Some few during Jesus' ministry did respond to Him and moved from faith to faith. Over the centuries a relatively few have continued to move from their old faith to the new faith.

Although the Gentiles lacked the background of the Old Testament faith, they could still follow the New Testament faith for "The just shall live by faith." Rom. 1:17b. Those who are justified or made right with God through their exercise of saving faith in Christ must continue to live a Christian life by exercising a working faith. Thus the Jew and the Greek in common have the same Christian faith although they came to it by different avenues.

The New Testament gives the doctrines and practices that must be carried out. These teachings bring about a common faith as those, who will receive and follow them, do the same things. Believing God's Word, they will do the same things and will have the same mind. The common faith is unifying. It matters not what the financial, popular or educational status of each believer for they must each one subscribe to the same beliefs and practices. Paul rebuked the Corinthians because of the party spirit that divided them, but commended them later for giving heed to his corrective words.

Jude speaks of our faith as common because it was but once given. This establishes the faith as being unchanging throughout various eras. Just as Jesus is unchanging, so is the way given for us to follow Him. Some have tried to change the faith citing the

differences that have occurred throughout history. They want a "modern" faith that will allow them the privilege of changing to meet changing conditions. The once given faith is established for always and it is us who must change, not it.

Jude tells Christians to contend for the faith so it will affect more people. Forwarding the faith by living and preaching it will lessen the need to prove and defend it.

There is a common faith delivered to us — are we living it, are we contending for it? Praise God, for our common faith.

NO HELP WANTED

Ida, a blind woman, became confused on her way to work one day, because of a construction area. The noise of the machinery drowned out the familiar sounds which she depended on for direction. Another woman saw Ida's distress and took her past the construction, part way across the street. Then she said, "I'm sure you know the rest of the way, don't you?" and left Ida before she could answer.

With cars passing her on both sides, Ida was confused and scared. She had no idea which way to go and cried out to God for help. A clammy hand took her arm and guided her across the street. The person said nothing, not even to Ida's question of where he was taking her. This frightened her even more, and even though uncertain of where she was, she jerked away and started to run. As she ran, she collided with a wall and lost her cane also. In the Psalms, 22:1, David said, "Why art thou so far from helping me?" Crying openly, Ida now asked that same question.

But help soon came. A friendly voice said, "My name is John. I work where you do. Frank here wrote me a note and said you were in trouble." Ida then knew why the stranger didn't speak. It was Frank, who had no voice box! He wanted to help, but couldn't tell Ida who he was, and the resulting confusion caused them both alot of distress.

Ida couldn't make it alone, yet she refused Frank's help. Why? Because she was blind and thought he meant to harm her. We, like her, are often blind too, to our needs, our helplessness, and to the source of help. We can't make it alone, yet will refuse the help which is right at our fingertips. Our blindness causes us to turn away from what we need most, and like Ida, we may not stop until we run into a wall.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psa. 46:1. God has promised to help us if we come to Him, but His help will not benefit us unless we accept it. Salvation, our first

need, is available to all, but it is effective only in the hearts and lives of those who accept it. It does nothing for the unbeliever who doesn't want it. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." John 3:36.

We all need help in some way or other, first from God, and at times from other people. There is nothing shameful about needing help. The shame comes when we won't accept it, when we say "no help wanted." Whatever the problem we have, we must first admit our need, that we can't handle it alone, and next, accept the help available for our need. Some who are obviously in need will refuse help, and they must suffer the consequences. There is no help for those who don't want it.

"Woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up." Ec. 4:10. Ida thought she was alone, but she really wasn't. She refused Frank's help because of being afraid, but he understood and got someone else to do what he couldn't. He didn't leave Ida "in the middle of the street", so to speak, but made sure her need was met. The woman who helped Ida part way across the street only caused more trouble. It is important to follow through as Frank did when helping someone, as a halfway job just leaves them more troubled than before.

Ida couldn't see and Frank couldn't talk, so they couldn't communicate. Frank's motive was misunderstood, and Ida's rapidly-increasing fear took control. We can't always communicate well either and we don't always trust when we should. This does cause problems and we need to look for ways to communicate more easily. Ida gave Frank a Braille identification card, and cautioned all helpers to not leave her stranded in the middle of a street. She encouraged others by making it easier for them to help her.

"For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee." Isa. 41:13. Whether anyone else knows how to help you or not, God does, and He has promised us His care. He wants us to trust Him and not be afraid. Just seek God and accept His merciful care; throw away your "No Help Wanted" sign. "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Heb. 4:16.

Sister Eileen Broadwater



Christ is our adornment as well as our atonement.

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Jesus who?

One of the most crucial issues in your life as a believer is understanding the Lordship of Jesus Christ. This understanding will determine whether you will be useful to God and His Kingdom. All of your aspirations, blessings and joys are dependent on your submission to Jesus as Lord of all. You can not experience His fullness until you submit to His Lordship.

You might be saying... "well, of course I do that." But I find this an area of great conflict to both young and old Christians alike. Understanding Christ's Lordship is not just being baptized. It is not just being a member of the church. You made an initial commitment to submit to Christ when you first discovered that He was worthy of your allegiance. But you **MUST** make a day-by-day recommitment to the Lord's authority. The Biblical admonition is that "If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross **DAILY** and follow Me." (Luke 9:23)

You are constantly facing new decisions relating to Christ's lordship. The battle is constant between you and the world, the flesh and Satan himself. You are constantly making choices of who will be first in your life... self, family, friends or Christ.

Is Jesus worthy of being Lord over your life? He reminds us in Matt. 6:33 that He fills all of our basic needs of shelter, clothing and food. If we put Him first, His care for us will be complete.

I believe that Jesus must either be Lord of all of your life or He will not be for any of it. Because he is at the very top of all things and is Lord God Almighty, He is worthy of your total submission. His power is absolute and without end. God's creative ability is phenomenal. It is said that if you were able to fire a bullet in such a way that it traveled around the world at the speed of light... before you could completely release the trigger, the bullet would have gone through your body seven times. This illustrates the awesomeness of just one part of the Lord's creation... light. And, not only did He create it, but He also sustains it. All things follow the laws which God has designed to govern them... except man... who tries to follow his own will and way. We rebel against Him... we go our own way... even with His evidence of authority over the creation all around us.

Now we are not specifically talking to the total rebel here. We are talking to those who resist His lordship over their life. All of the problems in a Christian's life can be traced to sin and a lack of submission to Jesus Christ. We don't **ALWAYS** want Him to rule over us. We can't understand why life is filled with problems

sometimes because we haven't stopped to analyze whether we are surrendering totally to Jesus Christ as Lord. He wants to give us the fullest life we could ever dream of and yet through the hardness of our hearts, we refuse to submit to Him.

THE DEGREE OF ABUNDANCE WE EXPERIENCE IN OUR LIFE DEPENDS ON HOW MUCH WE ARE WILLING TO SURRENDER AND SUBMIT TO JESUS AS LORD OF OUR LIVES.

You want to be first in your life... right? After all, you live in a "me first" world. But you must realize that you are no longer your own. By virtue of Christ's death on the cross, you now belong to Him. You have been bought with a price. (1 Cor. 6:19-20)

So, now that you understand that you must submit to Christ, how do you do it? First of all, you must surrender all of your possessions to Him. This is hard because it is contrary to "human" nature. But it does separate the true disciple from the "also-run" Christians. Your home, your car, your boat, your back account... these must be entrusted to the Lord of all your possessions. **THEY ALL BELONG TO GOD.** Let Him be in control of them through your right attitude toward them.

You must also give Him your daily plans. Remember, His way is best. If you are led by the Holy Spirit in His fullness, you will work toward total surrender to God's will. Yes, it is a struggle but you will never become what God intends you to be without complete surrender. **YOU CAN'T SERVE TWO MASTERS. CHOOSE YOU THIS DAY WHOM YE WILL SERVE.** (Joshua 24:15) You cannot remain on the fence. You can't fluctuate between wholeheartedly serving Jesus and His Church and living in the world as well. Your **ALLEGIANCE** must be to the One or to the other. Your life will be meaningful only as you turn it all over to Him... your vocation, location, life partner, children, friends, leisure time, education, plans, time, career, money and possessions.

In reality, God has controlled much of your life up to now without your input. You didn't decide to be born, who your parents would be, what country you'd be born in, what color your skin, hair or eyes would be, how tall you would be and so forth. Let Him have everything else. Will it cause you some challenge if you have to bear the cross a little more? Will you have to deny self more? Probably! But, a disciple is a **DISCIPLINED** one. He is not someone who pampers himself by satisfying all his wants and desires in a self-gratifying way.

Face it... you don't know what is best for you. You don't know what is in your best interest. Only God knows... the One who must be allowed to be the **TOTAL** Lord of your life. Give Him your life... your past, present and future. Experience the full Christian life you

so much desire. JESUS WHO... JESUS THE LORD OF YOUR LIFE.

Brother Len Wertz

SIXTY YEARS AGO

January 15, 1927

WHICH WAY?

B. E. Kesler

We are all traveling for a short while in what is called time. In a short time — an hour, a day, a week, a year or longer — we shall be called from time to eternity. And our final home will depend on the direction we have been traveling here in this world. So far as our destiny is concerned, there are only two ways: one leads to life and the other to death. We are left free to choose our way, but once we have chosen it and passed over it, we must abide by the consequences. There is no getting away from them.

Sometimes we are inclined to think that a little departure from the way which leads to life will not matter, that we can get back to it any time we wish to. But that is not always true; we think it is not true at all, if we deliberately depart from the way we know to be right.

There is no end to the number of ways that men and women are following in this world; but we need to remember that, though there seem to be many ways, there are only two destinations. It does not matter how nearly some of the ways seem to correspond with the way of life, if they differ from it they will not lead us to our desired haven. No other way is just as good, no other way leads to life eternal.

It has often been said that it does not matter so much whether we take a long step or a short one, the all important point being the direction in which the step is taken. Any step taken on the wrong way must be retraced if we are ever to reach heaven. And how many men and women have made shipwreck of their lives while thinking that they would turn in time and steer the right course.

And the great hulk of persons who go wrong do not go that way in long steps; a little step aside is thought to be like a white lie. But we must not forget that there is no such thing as a white lie.

The view given us of the final judgment shows us people rejected, not because of gross crimes committed, but because of little duties neglected. And those who were told to depart were surprised at their sentence. But the great point was that they had been on the wrong road; and the only way in which we have any

right to expect to reach the desired destination is by traveling on the road which we know to be right.

There is nothing difficult or complicated about it. We are given a number of commandments and told that by doing them we shall enter into life eternal when our life on earth is past; by not doing them we fail to enter into life eternal with our Father and Savior. Men have various ideas as to what the other place is like, thinking they know more about it than the Lord has revealed to us. But no matter what they think, they must agree that a life of bliss is not found at the end of the wrong road; and that ought to be sufficient to make us avoid it.

If our destination is to the north of the place where we are, we should be foolish to start south and expect to get there. We should consider a man foolish who did that. And yet is it any more foolish to do that than for men to take the opposite road from the one marked out for reaching heaven? If we had the chance to go over the road the second time and correct our mistakes, we might run the risk; but we have just one chance, and if we fail, the mistake and the loss are ours, for we have no excuse for going over the wrong road and reaching the destination that all would avoid.

And we must not deceive ourselves by believing we are on the right road just because we have united with a church. That is a step in the right direction, but it is just a beginning of the journey. There is not the slightest reason for believing that all church members will obtain a heavenly mansion at the end of life. We have the word of Jesus that not everyone that saith unto Him "Lord, Lord" will enter into the kingdom. The one who does the will of the Father in all things is safe, but no others.

The choosing of the right road and continuing therein until time ends for us, is the most important thing in our lives, in the life of anyone; and yet how many we see who are indifferent, even say it makes no difference to them which road they travel. What will be their idea when the final day comes, when everyone of us shall stand before the judgment seat to receive for the deeds done in the body?

We are told that there is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but at the end of it is death.

No place in God's Book can we find more than one safe way mentioned, whether we search the Old or the New Testament. Isaiah said there shall be a highway called the way of holiness; and nothing unclean shall pass over it.

When we can be safe, why do we so often choose to be unsafe? Is it that we wish to have our own way in the things pertaining to the kingdom of heaven as well as in those of the earth? Sometimes it

would seem so, for man refuses to follow God in the most important thing in life.

Which way are you traveling? And why? We should be able to give a reason for the faith that is in us. Who is our master, and under whose directions are we traveling? It is for each of us to say whether he will be on safe or unsafe ground. We are not compelled to take the right or wrong road, but we must choose one or the other. May God help us to choose aright.

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

Confession

J. H. Moore

Hearing leads to believing, believing to repentance, and repentance leads to confession. To confess Christ is to acknowledge his sovereignty and to accept his teachings. Jesus says, in Matthew 10:32, "Whosoever, therefore, shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven." Paul makes confession a condition of salvation. Here is his statement: "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Rom. 10:9-10) Before the eunuch was baptized, he made his confession in these words: "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." (Acts 8:37)

The confession, however, embraces more than merely accepting Christ. It includes a confession for sins. In I John 1:9 we read: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Even John the Baptist, though working in the twilight of the Gospel, taught the doctrines of confession, for when the people, from all the regions round about, came to him, it is said that they "were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins." (Matt. 3:6) It is remarkable, when we come to consider the matter carefully, how faith, repentance and confession are related, as so many steps, leading up to salvation from our sins. In these steps the hand of God is pointing out the way.

TWO TRUE SONS

A certain man had two sons, and he loved them both very much. To the first son he gave many wonderful gifts: a beautiful orchard, a

field planted with grain, a deep well with plenty of fresh water, a sturdy new plow, and a big, strong draft horse.

To the other son he only gave an acre of fallow ground and a small donkey. Some people began to think that he was unfair, or that he loved one son more than the other.

The first son was very grateful. Everywhere he went he told people about how good his father was to him. He even went to his brother and said, "Our father is wonderful; see the draft horse he gave me. I have more than enough grain to feed him. And how can I ever go hungry? Just look at that orchard. And I will never thirst, for look at this deep well. And I surely did not deserve any of this or even ask him for it."

The other son said, "Very nice. Well, I'd like to talk to you, but I have to be going. My donkey is sick and I have to take care of him."

Now the father paid the first son a visit and said, "How are you doing?" And the son said, "I am doing well; everywhere I go I never fail to tell how good you have been to me. I tell them how much you care for us and how you meet our needs, and I never fail to explain that we do not deserve what you give us in your great love for us. And I know that it is not because we even asked, but because you love us. And no one can deny what I say because you have obviously given me so much."

And the father said, "All this is of no benefit, for you have slandered my name." And he said, "Everyone thinks that I am unfair because I have given you so much. Or else people think I don't care about them. Take your brother, for example, whose donkey is sick. He even doubts that he is my son."

And the son said, "But why do you not do for him what you do for me?"

And the father said, "Because I want you to be a true son. Have you ever noticed that your brother's donkey does not have enough to eat? And do you wonder why his land is fallow and dry? You are both my children, and I love you both equally, but you must both learn to be my true sons."

So because he was a true son, what do you think the first son did?

He gathered fruit from his orchard and grain from his field. He drew water from his well, and he hitched up the plow to his horse and went to pay his brother a visit. He gave his brother food for his table and grain for his donkey and helped him plow up and irrigate his land. And so they began a life of caring for each other. And throughout the land everyone knew about the great love of the father. They could tell by looking at his sons.

"But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have

need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" I John 3:17.

"We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren..." I John 3:14.

Selected by Lynn H. Miller
RD 2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

THE INEVITABILITY OF CHANGE

Malachi 3:6a "For I am the Lord, I change not;..."

Hebrews 13:8 "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever."

Revelation 22:18-19 "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things, which are written in this book."

As we look about us we see change rapidly taking place. With a few minor exceptions, the corner grocery store has been replaced by the supermarket. The general store has been replaced by the shopping mall. Super highways have replaced long crooked country roads and town traffic congestion when desiring to travel. The effects of change has not escaped the earthly church. We sometimes feel like an individual who decides to do some leisure shopping in a small town by way of a bus that is overcrowded only to find oneself in the bustle of New York City. Then upon realizing ones mistake to be told, "Don't worry about it, everyone shops in New York City. Join the crowd."

We would like to look at three reasons we see for change. Some of the things we mention are merely given facts and it is not our intention to oppose or condone these actions. We concede that change (especially in the church) is a highly charged emotional issue on two sides.

The first reason for change we would like to think about is technological advancement. Those that are acquainted with factory work know that this has become quite an issue in recent years. Modern machinery and even robots have replaced the common laborer. Whether or not this has added to the labor market, as some claim, or taken jobs away is not our concern at this point. It certainly has made a difference in the type of work that is available. Even if you are a farmer you are most likely aware of the

change in work methods that are used today. Because of the high price of modern machinery many small family farms have experienced financial disaster in recent years. Many claim that refusal to use the modern technology leaves an individual unable to compete with large professional farmers. Most of our homes and meetinghouses reflect technological advancements. The old cook stove is a rare sight. You will look long and hard for anyone that does not have a central heating system in both home and meetinghouse. In the summer many homes have air conditioning and some meetinghouses have this luxury. Those who have not advanced this far have ceiling fans. We drive to church in cars with heaters for the winter and air conditioning for the summer. The horse and buggy is a sight so unusual that tourists travel for miles to see it. For most groups the color of the car is no longer too important.

The second reason for change that comes to mind is a change in concepts. Here the issues become more emotionally charged (for the most part) than with technological advancement. The values of "the world" have changed drastically over the years. Very few things are taboo in our modern society. When we think of change within the earthly church we realize that different groups have changed at different paces. But some general observations can be made. Beards worn for reason of conviction are becoming a thing of the past. Some articles of clothing that was accepted as necessary for uniformity have been laid aside in many instances. Some actions that were formerly recognized as sinful are now considered to be personal preference. Belonging to certain organizations and having insurance has been recognized as a "necessary evil" by the vast majority of those within the local church.

The last reason for change we would like to think about is by far the most serious. This is change because of departing from the Faith. As we stated it is impossible to divorce the first two reasons from this last one. It will take much Bible study and discussion to make final decisions on the issues we have raised. We do not foresee the time when all within the earthly church will be in full agreement. But what does this say about our opening verses? Are there areas where change must not be accepted? It is our conviction that this must be answered with a "yes." God the Father said, "I change not." Unfortunately many would have you believe that the God of the Old Testament is a "different god" than He who is found in the New Testament. God was and is a God of love and a God of judgment. He does not change! We may wish to forget about God's judgment to avoid conviction, but the end result will be disastrous.

The Bible says that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. This may raise some questions as to His role in Old Testament wars and such but it is truth nonetheless. We may not fully understand it but since Jesus Christ taught nothing but love and nonresistance we have to believe that this was always true of Him. We can not separate the Trinity, but some things are beyond human comprehension. The earthly church is to follow the Lord Jesus Christ. What He has commanded we do not have the option to change. We have to recognize Him as a virgin born Son of God and God the Son. We must hold fast to the truth of salvation through His shed blood.

Of course, if we doubt the validity of the Bible it matters little what the Lord Jesus Christ said. Our final verses carry a dire warning. Some argue that these only refer to the book of Revelation. But even if this be so, the truths of scripture are to be found in this book of the Bible.

Many are concerned about adding to the Bible, and rightly so, but few seem concerned about taking away from it. We believe that our verses and scripture as a whole teach us to avoid both. Change will come if we like it or not. But let us beware of any change that takes away or adds to Holy Scripture.

There is one change that God desires for you if you have never accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. He wishes to take away your stony heart and give you one of flesh. He wants to change your life of sin into one of righteousness. He wants to change your eternal destiny from Hell and eternal punishment to Heaven and eternal bliss. In this time of change may we all allow God to be the Master Ruler of our life and change us into the likeness of His Son.

James M. Hite
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NEWS ITEMS

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Bible Study Board has available Sunday School lessons, with pictures to color, for the Primary and Intermediate Sunday School Classes. Request from:

Bro. Fred Pifer
R. 3 Box 184
Adel, Iowa 50003

Brother Dennis St. John, Sec.

A NOTE OF THANKS

I want to thank every one who sent me cards and remembered me in your prayers while I was in the Hershey Medical Center and since I am home. May the Lord bless each one.

In Christian Love
Sister Elizabeth Wisler

CONSIDER THE LILY

Do we realize the treasure
That we have in this world,
What God has revealed,
And so marvelously unfurled?
Consider the Lily.

We should gather them in
As a hen doth her chicks.
These most beautiful thoughts
On our mind we must fix,
While we consider the Lily.

As He gives us this light
To walk in each day.
The shadows will leave
And the Day Star will stay,
As we consider the Lily.

The Devil would get us
To worry and doubt,
But we can defeat him
With a song and a shout,
Because we consider the Lily.

Does not God feed the birds
With special direction and care?
Do you think He'll forget you
And that He doesn't know you are there?
Consider the Lily.

This will give us encouragement
And our faith will be strong.
We will find He is faithful,
And to doubt Him is wrong,
As we consider the Lily.

Albert P. Butler
Selected by Sister Ruth Speicher

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR FEBRUARY 1987

February 1 - The Faith of Abraham - Romans 4:1-25.

1. What is faith? Heb. 11:1.
2. How may we obtain faith? Rom. 10:17.

February 8 - Christ Died for Sinners - Romans 5:1-21.

1. How did sin enter into the world? Cor. 15:21-22.
2. What does Christ's death mean to us? Eph. 2:13-19.

February 15 - The Gift of God - Romans 6:1-23.

1. What is this great gift that God gave to man? John 3:16.
2. What must we do to receive that gift? Rom. 8:32.

February 22 - Holiness of the Law - Romans 7:1-25.

1. What was the purpose of the Law? Gal. 3:24.
2. How do we become free from the Law? Gal. 5:1.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR FEBRUARY 1987

February 1 - The Touch of Christ - Matt. 8:1-4, 14-15, Mark 7:31-37.

1. If Christ touched the sick and they were healed, what happens when He touches our lives?
2. In I Sam. 28 King Saul was out of touch with God. What happened to him?

February 8 - Widows Mite - Mark 12:41-44, Luke 21:1-8.

1. What made the widow's gift so important?
2. How should gifts be evaluated? Mark 12:44.

February 15 - Five Loaves and Two Fishes - Matt. 14:14-22, Mark 6:31-44, Luke 9:11-17.

1. What was the first thing Jesus did with the loaves and fishes?
2. How many baskets full were taken up? Matt. 14:20.

February 22 - Contentment - Prov. 15:16, Phil. 4:10-13, I Tim. 6:3-10, Hebrews 13:5-6.

1. What is contentment and what are its virtues?
2. What brings discontentment? What does Timothy say is the root of all evil?

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 3

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

WAIT, AND MURMUR NOT

O troubled heart, there is a home
Beyond the reach of toil and care;
A home where changes never come;
Who would not fain be resting there?

Yet when bowed down beneath the load
By heav'n allowed, thine earthly lot;
Look up! thou'lt reach that blest abode,
Wait, meekly wait, and murmur not.

If in thy path some thorns are found,
O, think who bore them on his brow;
If grief thy sorrowing heart has found,
It reached a holier than thou.

Toil on, nor deem, tho' sore it be,
One sigh unheard, one pray'r forgot;
The day of rest will dawn for thee;
Wait, meekly wait, and murmur not.

- W. H. Bellamy

SHARING

Adults differ from children by having the ability to care for and to share with another. The child from babyhood is self-centered, crying to have its needs met or to get attention. As a child grows and matures, he begins to feel a responsibility for others. Supposedly, an adult has matured, leaving behind the self-centered feeling of the child so he is able to feel the needs of others and respond appropriately.

Jesus said that it was more blessed to give than to receive. Our Heavenly Father has given without measure. Not only has He given physical, temporal and material gifts for men's enjoyment and good but He has given Spiritual gifts. Best of all He gave His Son who gave Himself as the sacrifice for our sins. Eternal life is the greatest gift of all. Even if we have complied with every requirement, eternal life is still a gift from God.

Sharing can take many forms and involve many things. Sharing may be the giving of our material possessions to others less fortunate. Paul told the Corinthians to make up a gift to help relieve the believers around Jerusalem. Sharing may not involve the material possessions we accumulate in life. It may entail sharing Spiritual things.

Sharing the Gospel with the lost is one of the highest priorities of Christians. Through personal counseling and help with problems, Christians may be able to share the saving Gospel with others. It may not be through great philosophical statements or overpowering arguments that others may be won but through the caring help of the Christian. Evangelistic meetings are a more

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public sharing of the Gospel although it may be more through the example or help of a dedicated Christian than through the actual spoken word that a lost soul will be brought to Jesus. Still the power of the preached word should not be overlooked when the Word of God is shared through the Holy Spirit. It is God's wisdom to use the foolishness of preaching to win souls.

Sharing spiritual things is not limited to evangelism. Christians need to share with each other. There are many admonitions given in God's Word that the Christian must be strengthened. The Church must be strong itself if it is to win others. So a sharing among the members is needed to give it that strength.

Attendance at the scheduled meetings of the congregation is a type of sharing. It tells each present that all have an interest in the study and proclamation of the Word of God. When members attend Church services they are telling their neighbors that the things of God are more important to them than the common interests of life.

The services themselves become times of sharing. During Bible Study many thoughts may be shared so each one is enriched beyond what he has studied the lesson himself. Everyone who studies and shares helps the other to gain a greater understanding of the Word. No one can know or even fathom all that the Scriptures contain.

Sharing may be through prayer. As needs become known they can be shared before the Throne of Grace. Each can have a part in seeking the answer to that prayerful request.

Singing involves the sharing of a part of our bodies effort to worship. The more who share in making a joyful noise unto the Lord, the more inspiring that portion of the worship service will be. When an effort is made by each one to use his body's powers to praise God the total effect is great.

The ordinances given by God to the Church are a part of sharing. Each of the ordinances requires more than one person to participate. The Holy Kiss requires two to share the love that is sealed by that kiss. Baptism requires not only the applicant but also the administrator. Feet washing demands one to wash and one to be washed. The Lord's Supper being a common meal needs a number to partake of it. The communion of the Bread and the Cup requires one to pass each emblem to. Being a communion, it needs those who are in union with a common purpose. One can not commune with himself, it must be a sharing with another.

While sharing may involve material items — for at times those are the very things needed — often the deeper sharing is in Spiritual things. Too often we are prone to use the sharing of money or

other items as a way to excuse us from giving in a deeper way.

Every one of us has been blessed in so many different ways. Being so greatly blessed we should, without being compelled, share the appropriate gift at the appropriate time. Have you shared with another, of your temporal goods, of your Spiritual possessions?

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

BAPTISM A NECESSITY

J. H. Moore

There should be no question about the necessity of the rite of baptism. When Jesus sent forth his apostles to teach or disciple all nations, he directed that penitent believers should be baptized "into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matt. 28:19). He also declared, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." (Mark 16:16) Speaking as he was moved by the Holy Ghost, Peter told those inquiring after their duty to "repent and be baptized every one of you." (Acts 2:38)

While listening to the preaching of Philip, the eunuch became so impressed that he even requested baptism. He was then told that if he believed he might receive the rite. Having made the confession, we learn that he was baptized (Acts 8:36-38). As fast as the Samaritans believed the preaching of Philip, they were baptized (Acts 8:12). Even Cornelius, a devout man, one who feared God and prayed to God, alway, submitted to the rite of New Testament baptism (Acts 10:48). Though a chosen vessel, Saul, who in time beame the prince of Gospel preachers, was instructed by Ananias to be baptized (Acts 22:16).

In fact, in the time of the apostles no one ever dreamed of accepting Christ as his Savior without submitting to baptism. Jesus, the Head of the church, had set the example by receiving baptism at the hands of John, his forerunner (Matt. 3:13-16). The apostles also were baptized, and every man, engaged in preaching the Gospel, seems to have had something to say about baptism. The necessity of the rite was unchallenged, and wherever Christianity was introduced, Christian baptism became a recognized necessity.



Carry an appetite to God's house and you will be fed.

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EDITORIAL POLICY

That it be the policy of the Bible Monitor to exclude controversial material and material opposing, questioning or reflecting on decisions or positions of the Church as determined by the General Conference or derogatory thereto. Also all other material not of proper standard or spiritual value for a church paper.

That supervision over the matter to be published in the Bible Monitor be exercised by the Publication Board.

PRINTED MATERIAL

The following Dunkard Brethren publications are available to anyone, from the Boards listed:

GENERAL MISSION BOARD

The following tracts are free:

Why Triune Baptism
Plain Dressing
Which is the Right Church?
The Service of Feet Washing as a Religious Rite
What Shall I Do With The Commandments of Jesus?
Daily Reminder
The Lord's Supper
The Doctrine of the Prayer Veil
The Brethren's Card
Do You Want Salvation?
Bible Teachings
The Sabbath - Its Origin and Observance

PUBLICATION BOARD

Bible Monitor (semi-monthly)
\$2.00 per year in advance.
Brethren Hymnal (heavy back)
\$6.75 ea. \$80.00 doz. Plus Postage
Church Manual \$.30
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Minutes of General Conference in One Volume
\$4.25 ea. plus \$.35 postage each.

SUGGESTIONS TO CONTRIBUTORS

We are submitting several suggestions as a help to contributors in preparing material for the Bible Monitor. These suggestions will also make the work easier for both the editor and the printer.

1. Become familiar with the Editorial Policy and do not use subjects or statements which conflict with this plan of the Bible Monitor.

2. Place your name and address at the close of the article. We deem it more appropriate to sign as Brother or Sister.

3. Do not make sentences too long. A number of short sentences are better than a long involved sentence which is difficult to punctuate, and in which the real meaning of the writer's thought may be lost.

4. It will be appreciated if you gather a particular thought or thoughts and their proving Scripture quotations, into paragraphs and set these apart from the rest of the article, by setting in the first line of each paragraph about the space of three letters.

5. Do not crowd your words or punctuation marks close together. Do not use slang or abbreviated words as "thot" for thought, "2" for two; "&" for and, etc.

6. Write or typewrite on one side of the paper only. Double spacing of lines is much preferred. Do not make the lines the full width of the sheet, leave at least one inch margin on each side of the sheet.

7. Use direct quotations for the Scripture references, please copy the wording and the punctuation just as it appears in the King James Version of the Bible. Given thus: book, chapter and verse, "Jesus wept." John 11:35.

8. Frequent mistakes we find: beleive for believe; recieve for receive; judgement for judgment; ore for or; & for and.

9. In submitting selected material, give the name of the author and the publication in which it appeared, if known, and add "selected by" and your name.

10. To be certain that an item is in a certain issue, your Editor should have this item at least 30 days prior to the date of the issue.

11. The Publication Board has decided that News Items should contain material of general interest to the Brotherhood. Therefore items of only local interest should not be included in News Items, such as Local Sunday School officers, District meeting delegates, minor local church property improvements and items "In Memoriam."

12. Read these and then write.

FIXED COMMUNION DATES

Third Sat. Feb. - Winterhaven, CA
 Third Sat. March - Quinter, KA
 First Sat. April - Dallas Center, IA
 Fourth Sat. April - Pleasant Home, CA
 Last Sat. April - Grandview, MO
 Last Sun. April - Bethel, PA
 First Sun. May - Waynesboro, PA
 Third Sat. May - Dayton, VA
 Third Sat. May - West Fulton, OH
 Third Sun. May - Lititz, PA
 Fourth Sun. May - Shrewsbury, PA
 Sat. before First Sun. Aug. - Broadwater Chapel, MD
 Sat. before Fourth Sun. Aug. - Swallow Falls, MD
 First Sun. Oct. - Walnut Grove, MD
 Third Sat. Oct. - Dayton, VA
 Third Sun. Oct. - Lititz, PA
 Fourth Sat. Oct. - Englewood, OH
 Last Sun. Oct. - Bethel, PA
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 Second Sat. Nov. - Pleasant Home, CA

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GOSSIP, BOTH VERBAL AND BY MAIL

A. Elders, other officials and all others are admonished that being busybodies in other men's matters, is contrary to the Scripture and it should not be indulged in, as it causes complaint and interference with the spiritual life and work of those concerned. This applies especially where there may be trouble in the church, both to local members and those elsewhere, talking and writing about such matters.

B. When advice is sought of an official in any church matter he (the official) should be exceedingly careful in giving advice, so as not to interfere in any way with proper care of difficulties, by officials whose business they are. Elders and all others should, in seeking advice, begin at home when at all possible and be careful to proceed regularly and in brotherly love.

C. In correspondence, care should be exercised not to make statements that may be construed as derogatory to any member. If such things are done, full responsibility must be understood as being assumed by the writer.

D. Caucusing, that is, the taking over and planning by groups, what to do or how to move in any particular matter is unprofitable, causative of distress and trouble and should not be indulged in by officials or anyone else.

E. Talking or circulating of what was done in council, either to members who were not present or to outsiders, is irregular and un-Christian and should not be indulged in.

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LOCATION OF CHURCH HOUSES

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Bethel Congregation is presently worshipping at the school building located five miles east of Bethel, one mile south of Interstate 78, exit 6 on route 419.

Milbach House, located halfway between Kleinfeltersville and Newmans-town, in Lebanon Co. or halfway between Schafferstown and Womeisdorf, Pennsylvania.

BROADWATER CHAPEL, MD.

From Cumberland, Maryland, travel west on National Freeway #48, 20 miles to Lower New Germany Road Exit. Turn left or south under freeway three-tenths mile, turn right on Lower New Germany Road 3.8 miles, left on

Westernport Road 3.8 miles, right on Savage Road 3.9 miles to church on left.

From Morgantown, W. Va. area, travel east on National Freeway #48 to Lower New Germany Road Exit. Turn right three-tenths mile, turn right on Lower New Germany Road and follow above directions.

Traveling east or west on U.S. Route #50 take U.S. Rt. #220 north, take Maryland Rt. #135 at McCoolle (just north of Keyser, W. Va.) seven miles to Bloomington, Maryland. Turn right on Savage River Road, 12½ miles to church on right.

CLEARVILLE, PA.

Ward's Church, located 14 miles southwest of Everett, Pa., all improved roads. From Everett take Rt. 26 to Clearville, Pa. At Clearville straight ahead South, leaving Rt. 26, which turns right, 1½ miles, then turn right at fork. Ward's Church is five miles on the left.

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

Dallas Center is located on Rt. 44, twenty-four miles northwest of Des Moines. Turn north off Rt. 44 on to County Rd. R16 at west edge of city. The church is ¾ mile north on the west side of the road.

DAYTON, VIRGINIA

Turn west from Interstate 81 at Harrisonburg Exit #63. Go to second stop light, Rt. 42, turn left to Dayton, (3 miles) right on Rt. 257, two blocks.

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

Twelve miles north of Dayton, Rt. 440 and Rt. 48 cross at the center of Englewood. Church house is located on the right of Rt. 48, one block north of this junction.

GOSHEN, INDIANA

Located on Green Road, one block north of County No. 130. Take U.S. 33 or Indiana #15 to Goshen, turn west at Police booth. Four blocks beyond bridge, turn right on North Indiana Ave., one block turn left on W. Clinton St. One mile to Green Rd., right one block and church is located on east side of road.

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Grandview Church is located south of Grandview. Take the west access road of 71 Highway 1½ miles south to 139th St., turn west, go to the second street and turn south one block.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

Coming from the south on Route 501, turn right on Newport Road, which is about a mile north of Lititz. Coming from the north turn left on Newport Road. Go to second crossroads, turn right. The brick church is on the right.

**MECHANICSBURG, PA.
CUMBERLAND CO.**

Located between Routes 15 and 11. The town is bisected by Rt. 114 into East and West, and by Rt. 641 into North and South. The church is located on West Keller St., or corner of Keller and Washington St., four blocks west of Market St. or Route 114. Leaving the Pennsylvania Turnpike at the Carlisle interchange, Rt. 11 will lead east to Rt. 114. Leaving the Turnpike at Gettysburg interchange, Rt. 16 will lead west to Rt. 114.

McCLAVE, COLORADO

The Cloverleaf church is located one mile north of U.S. Highway #50, four miles west of McClave junction, or two miles east of Hasty, Colo., on U.S. #50 and then north one mile.

MOUNTAINDALE, MD.

Seven miles north of Frederick, in the little town of Mountaindale, Md., from east go through town to west on road from Lewistown to Yellow Springs, two miles from Lewistown and three miles from Yellow Springs. If traveling U.S. 15, this road crosses #15, half mile west of Lewistown and six miles south of Thurmont.

PLEASANT HOME, CA.

The Pleasant Home Church is located at 3960 Sharon Ave., Modesto, California. The Church's telephone number is 209-524-8634.

Directions: From the South on Highway 99 take the Briggsmore Exit to the right and stay on Briggsmore Ave. to Claus Road (approximately six miles), turn left on Claus, one fourth

mile to Sharon Avenue, left on Sharon Ave. Church is on the left. Coming from the North on Highway 99 take the Briggsmore Exit, turn left and stay on Briggsmore and follow above directions.

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

Located in Williams County, four miles west of West Unity, forty rods north of Rt. 20 alternate. Two miles east of junction of Ohio Rte. 15 and U.S. Route 20 alternate.

PLEVNA, INDIANA

Route 18 passes east and west through Converse. In Converse, turn south at stoplight and go three miles. Turn right on blacktop road and go five miles to Plevna. Or go west of Converse on Rt. 18 for five miles, turn left and go three miles south. The Church is on west side of street near the square of Plevna.

NEWBERG, OREGON

Highway 99W enters Newberg in east-west direction. Those entering from the east on First St., go to third stoplight, turn right on N. Main. Go four blocks to the church at corner of N. Main and Franklin Sts. Entering from the west, turn left at first stop light onto N. Main and go four blocks to the corner of Main and Franklin Sts.

ORION, OHIO

Located in northeastern Ohio, on Orion Road, one fourth mile west of State Rt. 8 at a point six miles north of Canton or one and one-half miles north of North Canton and 17 miles south of Akron.

QUINTER, KANSAS

Located at the corner of Eighth Street and Main Street.

S. FULTON, ILLINOIS

Astoria, Ill, is located on Rt. 24, coming from east or west, turn south at the bank corner marked by the big clock. Two miles south and on the right at top of hill.

WAYNESBORO, PA.

Church is located in west side of town, on corner of Ridge and Third Streets. Turn south of Route 16 on Fairview Ave., go two blocks and turn left on Third Street, church house is one block.

SHREWSBURY, PA.

Fourteen miles south of York on Rt. 111, at the north end of the town of Shrewsbury.

SWALLOW FALLS, MD.

Traveling U.S. Rt. 50, turn north at Red house, half way between Clarksburg and Winchester, follow Rt. 219 to Oakland, there turn left on county road 20. The church is on Rt. 20, about nine miles north of Oakland. Traveling U.S. Rt. 40, turn south onto Rt. 219, at Keyser Ridge, follow Rt. 219 about four miles past Deep Great Lake, turn right on county road 20 at a store. The church is one and one-half miles Swallow Falls Park.

WALNUT GROVE, MD.

About midway between Frederick, Md. and Hanover, Pa. One-fourth mile east on Rt. 194, at an intersection three miles north of Taneytown, Md.

W. FULTON, OHIO

Near Wauseon, Ohio, located on U.S. Rt. 20 alternate, three and one-half miles west of junction of Ohio Rt. 108 and U.S. Rt. 20 alternate.

WINTERHAVEN, CA

Located in Cherry Valley. Go north of Beaumont on Beaumont Ave., go right on Brookside (marked with a Highland Springs sign) to Jonathan, left to Lincoln and right to the church.

MISSIONS

CLEARVILLE, PA. - In South Central Pennsylvania, about half-way between Everett on Rt. 30 and Piney Grove on Rt. 40. About six miles south of Clearville, Pa., along hard road a little east of Rt. 26. Services second, fourth and fifth Sundays, 10:00 a.m.

HART, MI - From Muskegon go north on Route 31 to Hart exit. Go left from freeway about 1½ miles to tee in road, turn right, go approximately ½ mile to church on left side of road.

TORREON NAVAJO MISSION

Located southwest of Cuba, New

Mexico, 23 miles. Turn on State Highway 197 in Cuba. Follow Rt. 197 for 19 miles when you will take a paved road to the left. A mission sign marks the junction. Proceed 3 miles to the mission. Present personnel includes David and Mildred Skiles; Paul and Sarah Skiles; Dean Shaffer; Carolyn Carpenter; Cynthia Chupp; Mary Alice Skiles and Renita Trujillo. Visitors would be wise to notify the Mission in advance. Address: R. 2 Box 8, Cuba, New Mexico 87013; Phone - 505-731-2292. Please contact for further information.

THREE THINGS TO REMEMBER

REMEMBER the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive. Acts 20:35.

REMEMBER the sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work, but the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God. Exodus 20:8-10.

REMEMBER them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God. Hebrews 13:7.

NOTICE CONCERNING SUBSCRIPTIONS

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To those who anticipate moving — please report a change of address promptly to the editor to prevent the papers being miscarried.

It will also be appreciated if those who send in subscriptions will give the complete addresses and indicate whether they are new or renewal subscriptions.

It will be of help to the editor if subscriptions are always sent in the same name.

Is your subscription renewed?

— Editor



Faint, yet pursuing;
Weak, yet subduing;
Spent, yet renewing;
Christ ever viewing.



Fools make feasts, and wise men eat them.



Faith honors Christ, and Christ honors faith.

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXV

FEBRUARY 15, 1987

No. 4

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

BE CAREFUL

Little feet, be very careful where you go,
As in life you daily travel to and fro;
Never for a moment stray
From the straight and narrow way.

Little hands, be very careful what you do,
Wrong or tho'tless actions you will surely rue;
Into mischief never go,
For 'tis very wrong you know.

Little ears, be very careful what you hear,
When the tempter whispers to you, danger's near;
Tho' he promises ev'rything,
Ev'ry promise is a sting!

Little hearts, be very careful to be true,
Love the Lord and He will surely care for you;
Jesus will not enter in
Where there is the least of sin.

- Charles H. Gabriel

LITTLE FOXES

The Song of Solomon 2:15 speaks of the little foxes, which were destroying the vines. Although they may have been more playful than mean, still the vines were damaged and the harvest was hindered. The vines were tender and the playful clawing and biting of the young foxes were enough to disrupt the flow of nutrients to the developing grapes.

This allusion to the foxes seems somewhat out of place in the midst of this love story. This simple story is actually the love story of Christ and His Bride, the Church. It has meaning beyond the vineyard or the lovers' pursuit. It is given as a warning to the Bride to be careful of the little things that could destroy or retard her fruit.

Christians must bear the fruit of the Spirit. Little things can destroy or retard that fruit, just like the little playful foxes in the vineyard.

The Wise Man realized that those seemingly innocent, cute little creatures must be caught so they could not run loose in the vineyard. It is likewise necessary for the Church and her individual members to be aware of little foxes that may get in and destroy the Spiritual fruit. There must be a willingness to get rid of these little things before the whole Spiritual life is destroyed.

Just like the cute, playful foxes, the little things that attack Christian's lives are seemingly innocent and harmless. But, alas, later what seemed innocent will be found to have been deadly. If the little things are not caught now, by harvest time it will be too late. There will be no fruit and the vine will be dead. Once the vine dies there is no way it can be restored.

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The vine can withstand major attacks and not be hurt, but actually be strengthened. The Christian can withstand many frontal assaults from Satan and become stronger, but he may be defeated by little pests that do not seem dangerous.

The little things that prove detrimental to each Christian vary from one to another. What is tempting and dangerous to one will not affect another. But none are untouched by these little things. None dares to look down upon another, for each has little things to contend with.

Most Christians do not have serious problems with the large sins so rampant in today's society. Satan may tempt to seriously stray from the strait and narrow way, but usually he tempts in more subtle ways. Full grown foxes in the vineyard would be destroyed, but the cute little ones would be allowed to live. Though they might be chased out of the vineyard, they would be free to return at another time to do more damage. This is the way little things work to destroy Christians' lives and witness. The Christian is prepared to meet the challenge of major sins. He is wary of gross deviations but he may not be so aware of the little things.

Serious sin such as cases of adultery, fornication, drunkenness, gross immodesty, dishonesty, uncontrolled wrath, stealing, lying or murder will be quickly and severely dealt with by the Church. The little things may be overlooked. Not every thing can be legislated on by the Church. Perhaps even those who do these little things will not even realize that they are moving a step away from what pleases God.

The little things can appear in any area of the Christian's life. It may be a slight compromising of the truth in business dealings. It may be some unnecessary item on the clothing. Because we now live in a world where clothes are ready made and bought out of a store, there may be some compromise in the style, length, color or cut of the clothes. It may be luxuriousness in the furnishing of the home. There may be tendency to use leisure time for sports, hobbies or other activities that become more interesting and important than Spiritual activities. What the Christian reads or listens to may subtly move him from wholesomeness. There are so many pernicious ways that Satan uses to lead the Christian astray. These activities may seem harmless and even good but they become wedges to allow Satan an entrance.

The little foxes can be more destructive than older foxes for they are not watched as closely because they seem so harmless. They need to be watched and destroyed.

Are there any little foxes in your moral vineyard? Have you been deluded by these seemingly harmless creatures? Are you ready to get rid of them before they do any more damage?

MY HALF

One Saturday morning, a little girl was asked by her mother if she had her room cleaned. The girl promptly replied, "My half!" Immediately I had a vision of a room with a line drawn down through the middle. On one side of the line, it was neat and clean, but on the other side, it was still cluttered. No way was this little girl about to help her sister clean the other half, because it wasn't her responsibility.

We laugh about things like this because we know it's typical of children. They are very careful to do only what they see as their jobs. When it comes to sharing, a piece of cake must be divided exactly, and even then, they will complain and say, "He got more than I did. It's not fair!" Few children understand true responsibility or true sharing. Unfortunately, many adults don't either, and their actions prove it.

As adults, we should be able to accept responsibility. We should be able to share what we have without any reservations. Yet, too often we hear 'It's not my job', 'I worked for this; it's mine' or something similar. The truth is it just may be our job, and no matter what we have, it is the Lord's to be used as He directs. We do have the right to enjoy the fruits of our labors, but never do we have the right to withhold help from one in need.

Jesus taught the disciples to give and go, to share and do. They were to be active in helping others, making use of whatever they had. Jesus said, "Freely ye have received, freely give." (Matt. 10:8) We, too, have freely received and we ought to freely give. There is no time when we can say "I've done my half" or "I've given my share." There is always something else to do, a need to fill somewhere.

"And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise." Luke 6:31. No matter what situation someone is in, you can determine his or her needs by considering what yours would be if it were you. You can't excuse yourself by saying "I don't know what to do." If a person is lonely, you know he needs a friend. If a person is grieving, he needs your love and support. Once you see what the need is, then it is your responsibility to do something about it.

In one parable, Jesus said, "I was hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked, sick, in prison, and you took care of me." (Matt. 25:31-46) This was spoken to the ones who cared about those around them. Their concern for others in turn increased their own blessings. Those who didn't care about those in need obviously cared mostly for themselves, and serving Jesus was not uppermost in their

minds. They were rejected by Jesus and no excuses were accepted. "I've done my half", "it's not my job" or "I don't see anything to do" are mostly just excuses, and won't be accepted either. The halfway point may not be the time to quit, and we must let Jesus decide when we've done enough.

"Give, and it shall be given unto you... For with the same measure ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." Luke 6:38. Simply stated, this means whatever you give you'll get back. If you're generous, you'll receive plenty. If you're stingy, you'll receive little. If you barely give your half, or do your half, you will limit your own blessings.

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." Gal. 6:10. In some situations, we can't really do anything, but when we can, we should. The things Jesus mentioned are simple tasks, something which nearly anyone can do. Food, water, shelter, clothing, supporting one in distress are all basic needs, good to consider when we attempt to help someone.

"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." Rom. 14:12. The little girl had to account to her mother about the condition of her room. If she hadn't fulfilled her responsibility, she would have been required to do so. The time to fulfill our responsibilities is now, before we are asked to give an account. There will not be time to go back and do things over. We may be limited by circumstances, but we can still be helpful, and we can pray for others. Do what you can and God will bless you.

Sister Eileen Broadwater

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Personal Time Spent With God"

We build the strongest relationships with those with whom we spend the most quality time. In order to get to know God and have a fulfilling relationship with Him, we have to spend time in devotion.

Devotional time is that time set aside for fellowship, worship and communion with God through reading His Word and by prayer. It is a time of meditation and speaking to God... with Him speaking back to us. It is the opportunity to lay at His feet our worship, praise, thanksgiving and our petitions. It is also a special time for intercession on behalf of others. It is that special time of day when you recognize the vital importance of getting your guidance from Him.

David had a great desire to have devotional time with God. He said that as the deer pants for the water brooks... so his soul panted for God. (Psalms 42:1-2) Throughout the Psalms, ONE THING is noticed above all others and that is David's desire... his all consuming passion... to get to know God better. Do you have this desire or are you satisfied with your current less than great relationship? Are you hungry for fellowship with Him?

THE DEVOTIONAL LIFE IS A LIFETIME OF DEVOTION TO JESUS. How wonderful to realize that when we spend time alone with God... reflecting on His Word and on His Person... that the Holy Spirit begins changing our lives to become more like Christ's. Our attitudes begin to change, our faces take on a new glow the way we do things and our motivations are transformed to His ways.

I realize that many people have limited time today because of economic challenges. But even so, some special time must be spent with God. No matter how small it might be, it should be high quality time. I believe the Bible indicates that morning... before starting the activities of the day is a good time but I personally find evenings more effective for meditation.

Through our personal time sacrifice we demonstrate to Christ that we love Him. If we love a person, it is evidenced by a desire to be with that person. We re-arrange schedules routinely to meet with friends or business associates. Love develops and grows when we have frequent communication. Man was created to have fellowship with God. And because of Christ's victory on Calvary, we have the barrier broken down and have a beautiful access to the Throne.

Does God have to wait in disappointment to have your time. Does He ever hear you say, "I love you"? Devotional time will be of great value to your spiritual life because it provides spiritual food and strength. It is NOT enough to go to church on Sunday and worship only there. If that amounts to your total fellowship with God except for a few memorized meal time prayers, you have a very basic problem. You will have little strength to face the onslaught of the satanic society in which you live and function. Facing temptations of the flesh will destroy you.

Devotional time with God will give us spiritual victory. Victory is a matter of choice... the choice of devotion to Jesus Christ. We either choose victory or defeat. We either spend time with God or we don't!

Our devotional time provides joy. Jeremiah said that he "ate" the words of God and they were a joy and delight to him. It was delightful experience.

The two basic elements of devotional time are prayer and

reading the Word. The Word, Jesus Christ, speaks to us through the Bible. Remember to read first that God might speak to you before you speak to Him. This will help you to know where you fall short of His will and to know what changes need to be made. The unfolding words will be a "... lamp to your feet and a light to your path..."

Prayer is literally the voice of our life. In it, we bring our burdens and cares to God and our spiritual development is revealed. Prayer should be prayed in specific requests. Generalities in private prayer takes away the personal and close communication that can be experienced.

How many times have I thought about the Muslim adherents who pray five times each day, bowing in the direction of Mecca. Shouldn't we as Christians have at least that much commitment in our worship of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords?

A plan that might work for your devotional time is known as ACTS. In prayer, ACTS means: A-Adoration; C-Confession; T-Thanksgiving and S-Supplication. Adoration comes first as you come into God's presence and acknowledge that He is God. Confession is the purification process that allows you to enter into His courts with a right heart. Thanksgiving expresses your appreciation for all He has done for you... for giving you health, a home, income, brothers and sisters in Christ, and so forth. And supplication... lastly... asks God to care for the special needs of others as well as for your needs.

Carry out your devotions with preparation and with priority and you will grow in your Christian life and others will know that you have been with God.

Brother Len Wertz

SIXTY YEARS AGO

February 15, 1927

STOP, LOOK, LISTEN

E. J. SMITH

The above is said to be the danger signal board of a certain R.R. Company, but in this message we wish to make it a practical life signal board for surely this is a rushing age and we need many signals on life's highway. "Stop". In many of our large cities the precaution is taken to drawing a danger line across each street just a few feet back from their intersection with the thoroughfare or main street and on this line in large letters the word "Stop" which means all vehicles must come to a stop before approaching the main street.

Observing this signal has no doubt saved thousands of lives and tens of thousands of dollars in property. Of how much greater importance is it that we stop frequently on life's highway, in this fast age, just before entering upon some of the more important duties of life and all the more important as the many new plans and schemes are coming up before us and the cry is coming up from all sides, "It doesn't matter so much about this and that," "God is not so particular", and so forth "Just so our heart is right all is right."

Brother and Sister, let's stop and meditate. Did Jesus mean what he taught while here? To all this we have very tenaciously adhered ever since we have had an organization until the past few years, wherein we have most wonderfully drifted. "Stop". Has Jesus' word changed? No! What then? We are changing! O, how sad! "Look". And then again what would it amount to if the auto chauffeur stopped his machine and did not look nor pay any attention to the signal nor what it meant, but hastily opening the throttle, turning on the gas, pushing forward again only to confront a speedily moving train. We all know the result. Death! Destruction of property!

If John says, "Look to yourselves that ye lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward." Here John would have us "look that we may gain the full reward."

We "stop", we "look" but in competing with this mad rush of this fast age with only a glance for a "Look" and a slow down for a "Stop", without taking time to "Listen", the chauffeur again turns on the gas in haste, rushing on down the line dashing on the railroad crossing just as a through express dashes around the curve and in a deep cut which could not be observed except by careful scrutiny. Alas! Alas! Destruction and death followd. Amidst the groaning one was heard to mutter "we stopped, we looked, but oh, why didn't we listen? We could have heard the approaching danger, but now it's too late."

"Listen". I wonder if too many of us are not rushing through this world altogether too thoughtless, too inconsiderate? A pause for a "Stop", a glance for a "Look" and our ears stopped to our best interests for a "Listen". Listen — this signifies all must be quiet, a voice in our merry crowd must be hushed, even if it were possible, the birds cease to warble and the winds calm, all nature be still that we may "Listen" to know if there is danger approaching before ever our chauffeur shall move a wheel forward. Presently we heard a not far distant voice cry out, "There she comes!" Another halloos "yes, she's the flyer and she's sure coming!" We are glad to hear our chauffeur say "we will wait", and while we wait in safety we sadly witness the awful abyss and woe of hundreds who rushed madly by us, not heeding the signal, "Stop, Look, Listen." All seem to be striving to get there first and their destiny is only a mangled mess on the track of time.

My dear Brother and Sister, will we not just stop and look and listen for ourselves? Each of us is responsible to God and must give account to him for our stewardship here.

"O that thou hadst hearkened (listened) to my commandments, then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea." (Isa. 48:18) "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and sinners appear?" (1 Peter 4:17-18)

ONWARD AND FORWARD

The Apostel Paul had a strong determination in his faithful service in the Lord's work. He said I press onward and forward toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. He never turned back though he experienced several hardships.

He said that forgetting the things that are behind I press onward and forward. We believe the Apostle was thinking of his life before conversion in forgetting the things that were behind. Through a stroke from Heaven he was completely converted from a destructive life against Christianity into a loyal and faithful soldier of the Cross of Christ. In the Bible we have the record of his faithful service throughout his life unto the end. He labored hard for the spreading of the Gospel and the salvation of souls. Despite all the opposition against him, he continued to go onward and forward.

The prophet Jeremiah said, "... but they harkened not unto me nor inclined their ear but walked in the councils and in the imaginations of their evil hearts and went backward and not forward." The Lord said unto Moses to speak unto the children of Israel that they may go forward.

It may be well for us to meditate on the many faithful servants of God who were determined to go onward and forward and never lay their armour down. Today how many have promised to renounce Satan with all his pernicious ways and sinful pleasures of this world and have not been true to that promise?

Lot and his wife when leaving the wicked city were commanded not to look back. Lot's wife looked back and became a pillar of salt. The Lord always required obedience. He established a penalty for disobedience and a great reward for those who continued onward and forward in the path of truth and righteousness. We should never turn back to the sinful life in this world but rather continue onward and forward in the narrow way of truth and righteousness.

Christ said judge not that you be not judged. The same measure you use for others you will meet. The Apostle Paul said judge not.

Often people are judged and condemned by false reports or by those trying to impress their selfish ideas upon others. By judging others, some become stumbling blocks and fall in the way and hinder others from doing good.

In the saving Gospel we are told of better ways to keep union and peace with others. The true Christian life extends love and kindness to others.

Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus Going on before! . . .

Like a mighty army Moves the Church of God; . . .
One in hope and doctrine, One in charity . . .

We should never turn back to the beggerly elements of the world. The Apostle Paul and other faithful Apostles continued to press onward and forward toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Are we going onward and forward in the right direction? It should be the greatest concern of our life. Blessed are they that do His commandments for they shall have a right to the tree of life and they shall enter in through the gates into the eternal city of God.

There is no standing still in the way of salvation. We cannot be a servant of two masters. The Lord requires whole hearted service to Him. The Crown of Life, the Apostle Paul looked forward to, is at the end of the true Christian's pathway.

Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Christians have the promise of not being tempted above that which they are able to bear. If we continue to be faithful and true to the trust the Lord left us He will go with us always and through the valley of the shadow of death. We will be given power to tread on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt us.

We should be steadfast unmoveable always abounding in the work of the Lord. Much evil is done through false imaginations. The Christian spirit is a spirit of unselfishness. When Christ was here on earth he was severely tried by Satan.

The older we become in this fleshly body we should continue to grow stronger in the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ. Abraham's faith was severally tried by God. Surely if we put our trust and hope in God we need never become discouraged. We should never engage in placing hardships upon hardships, rather bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ.

The Crown of righteousness, the Apostle Paul looked forward to, is at the end of the true Christian's pathway. It can only be gained by pressing onward and forward in the path of truth and righteousness to the end of our life in this world. Have we put on the whole armour

of God that we may be able to stand against all the wiles of the devil and go onward and forward to the glorious eternity?

Brother J. F. Marks
804 W. Sundial Loop,
Plant City, FL 33566

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

BAPTISM FOR BELIEVERS ONLY

J. H. Moore

In the great commission Jesus places faith, or belief, alongside of baptism. To his apostles who were instructed to preach the Gospel to every creature, he said: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." (Mark 16:16) In their preaching the apostles were to do their utmost to reach every creature with their message, but their instruction limited them to believers in the administering of baptism. In their work they met two classes who could not be considered subjects for baptism — those who would not exercise faith, and those who could not. To the latter class belonged the children, not capable of understanding. Even in the cases of whole households, only those of the family, capable of hearing and believing the Word, were baptized.

It is said that at the home of Cornelius "the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the Word." (Acts 10:44) This did not include infants, for the reason that they are not capable of hearing the Word; that is, accepting it understandingly. Then, from the two closing verses of this chapter, we learn that baptism was administered to those who had received the Holy Ghost. This shows that no infants were among the number who received the rite. In Acts 16:33-34 we have an account of the conversion of the jailer and his household. But in this instance we are told that the jailer believed in God with all his house"; or, as the Revised Version has it: "With all his house, having believed in God." Since all in the household were capable of exercising faith, it follows that infants did not figure in the case.

And so we might reason regarding all the households in which mention is made of baptism. There is not an instance where the rite was administered to any one not old enough to choose for himself. By virtue of the atonement, all infants are saved, and therefore need no baptism. The age of baptism comes when young people have sufficient understanding to exercise faith, make the good confession and demand the rite. As regards children, in their innocent state, the Master says: "Of such is the kingdom of heaven." (Matt. 19:14), and this, too, without either faith or baptism.

SIXTY YEARS AGO

February 1, 1927

PRIDE

B. F. Wampler

While the modern dictionary gives several definitions to the word pride, some favorable and some unfavorable, the Bible condemns pride throughout, often and in very strong terms, while the modern world seems to apply the term where it doesn't belong. Hence justify being proud in many things, while the Bible tells us that - "Only by pride cometh contention", and "The Lord hateth a proud look", and "pride goeth before destruction", and a "haughty spirit before a fall" and "the pride of life is not of the Father, but of the world". Hence the word justifies it and so must the modern dictionary in some things even though the Bible says - "Everyone proud in heart is abomination to the Lord", and "God resisteth the proud and giveth grace to the humble."

And how does God do this in our day? He does it through his people, that is one of their duties on earth, and will be until "the Lord will destroy the house of the proud", in order to resist the proud, the Lord's people must know who they are. Hence he tells them, they who have a "proud look", and even the dictionary associates pride with self conceit, self exaltation, self-esteem, vain glory and vanity, all of which is not only useless, but even sinful, according to the Bible.

Hence we read, Ephesians 4:17, "This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk in the vanity of their mind." And as we are warned against false teachers, puffed up with the wisdom of this world, which is foolishness with God. II Peter 2:18, "For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error."

While false teachers, puffed up with their worldly wisdom, seek to lead the world and even the church people astray, through graduates from theological schools, who will only preach for hire, there are many other ways of the proud heart. One of the most common ways now is to seek to destroy the modesty and virtue of women. While pride once caused women to over dress, even to wear hoops and skirts so large as even to hide their feet and sleeves so long as to hide their hands which at least did have a show of modesty, pride of fashion causes them to now show their arms and legs which can only appeal to the carnal eye of men, who are bold to make sport of them and consider them cheap and so long as the

women have no more respect for modesty and virtue they have no grounds for expecting respect from men.

We don't object to women being "ornamented" providing it is done according to the Bible. (I Peter 3:3-4): "whose adorning, let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel, but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptable, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price."

And if I am qualified to speak for men, I will add that women thus ornamented are most highly prized by real men and women should be reminded that "woman was made for man," and not for men, to be made sport of, and the most modest woman or man has enough pride for the whole human family, since all pride is condemned throughout the Bible, and I grant that God, in thus speaking of man, meant a real man and not a mere imitation of man, and since "only by pride cometh contention."

Pride is the cause of all church contention, and division, pride of one thing or other. And since pride is the cause of people seeking and securing unnecessary things, we should dispense with such things and be content with things of real worth.

We are informed by the public press that in the great storm in Florida the real substantial buildings were not damaged much by the storm, and it is so with people who are well built, without pride. They can best stand a contentious storm. No amount of flimsy ornaments will protect a building in a storm and neither will they protect a person in a storm of contention, but are a real hindrance, hence we are better off without either pride or a haughty spirit. Some think pride is necessary in order to be decent, but not so, for the same Bible that tells us to "let all things be done decently and in order", condemns all pride. While proud people neither respect decency or order, if we may judge by their acts and clothing, so the only safe way to treat the proud is like Christ told Peter, "Get thee behind me Satan, for thou art an offence unto me," and Christ says, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

The proud always make a special effort at Christmas time to place their vanity and useless products into people's homes, and thus instead of honoring Christ, they honor Santa Claus, yet pretend it is in honor of Christ.



THE BAPTISM SERVICE

Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38

Baptism is one of the sacred ordinances Christ established for His Church. He was baptized for our example in the River Jordan by John the Baptist and gave the great commission to the Church to baptize all the new followers of His teaching. Matt. 38:19.

The believer first becomes convicted of sin and repents of his past life. He desires baptism so he can wash away his sins, obtain pardon and receive the Holy Spirit as a guide through life.

The new convert is buried with Christ in baptism. His old nature is covered up and he comes out of the water a new person with a new purpose in life. He now hates the things of the world that belong to Satan's kingdom and he desires to love and serve Christ.

The new convert is taken into the water where he kneels. The minister, who is administering the baptism service, asks him three questions.

1. "Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that he brought from Heaven a saving Gospel?" Answer is "Yes", or "I do."
2. "Do you willingly renounce the Devil with all the sinful pleasures and practices of this world?" Answer is "Yes."
3. "Do you covenant with God through Christ to be faithful unto death?" Answer is "Yes."

As Christ bowed His head in death so the applicant is bowed forward in the baptizing ceremony. The three persons in the God-head are each one honored. He is then dipped three times face forward in the name of the Father, in the name of the Son, and in the name of the Holy Spirit.

After the person has been dipped three times, the minister lays his hands on his head and prays a solemn prayer of consecration. The person is now born again into the Kingdom of God and his life is set apart for the Lord's service. He receives the Holy Spirit at this time. Acts 8:17 and Mark 1:8.

Usually the hymn "Oh, Happy Day" is sung at this time as he comes back to the shore.

Sister Maxine Surbey



Faith gets most, humility keeps most, love works most.

NEW ITEMS

1987 GENERAL CONFERENCE

Conference for 1987 will be held in the 4th District, June 13 through 17 at Mission Springs Conference Center, Santa Cruz, California.

From Santa Cruz go 3½ miles north on route 17 to Mt. Hermon Road (turn right at Big Basin sign and cross freeway, Route 17). Go 1½ miles on Mt. Hermon Road. Turn right on Lockhart Gulch Road and go 1 mile to Mission Springs Conference Grounds.

For those coming by bus, train or plane be sure to make your own arrangements with members or friends for pick-up when you arrive. If not call 408-335-9133. San Jose is the nearest airport and train depot.

All blankets, linens, towels, washcloths and soap will be furnished.

Send your reservations to Bro. Paul Blocher, 12301 Riverside Ave., Waterford, CA 95386 or to Bro. Rudy Cover, 2034 Roble Ave., Modesto, CA 95354.

Due to inflation, the cost of Conference this year will be extremely high. Please give accordingly (20% to 30% more, depending on the number who come.)

Brother Rudy Cover

A NOTE OF THANKS

I want to thank each of you who remembered me with cards, letters and prayers. "As in water face answereth to face, so the heart of man to man." Prov. 27:19. May the spirit of the Lord rest upon you.

In Christian love,
Sister Ruth Wilson

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Lord willing, our evangelistic meetings will be March 15 through 29, with Lovefeast on the 28th, with Bro. Fred Pifer as speaker. All are invited to attend these services and worship with us.

Sister Eileen Broadwater

WINTERHAVEN, CALIFORNIA

The Winterhaven Congregation is planning on hosting the Fourth District Meeting March 20 through 22. The business meeting will be Saturday morning with Lovefeast in the evening. A welcome is sent out to those who wish to join us.

Sister Susan Cook, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MARCH 1987

March 1 - The Flesh and The Spirit - Romans 8:1-13

1. How do we become free from condemnation?
2. If we walk after the flesh have we been set free?

March 8 - Heirs of God - Romans 8:14-39.

1. How do we become sons of God?
2. How do we gain victory over the flesh?

March 15 - Children of the Promise - Romans 9:1-33.

1. What was the cause of Israel's fall?
2. Who are the children of the promise?

March 22 - Salvation to Believers - Romans 10:1-23.

1. Is there danger of we ourselves depending on our works for salvation?
2. Who were the people who found Christ who were not searching?

March 29 - A Remnant According to Grace - Romans 11:1-15.

1. How is the remnant counted?
2. What is required of all to obtain salvation? Verses 9-10.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MARCH 1987

March 1 - The Light of the World - Is. 9:2, John 8:12, Matt. 5:14-16, II Cor. 4:3-6, Eph. 5:11-17.

1. What is this light and what is so important about that light?
2. How may the light become darkened?

March 8 - The Woman With the Box - Matt. 26:1-13, John 12:1-11.

1. Who was the woman with the Box and what was inside it?
2. What effect did it have on those that were there and also the woman?

March 15 - Abundance - John 10:9-10, Phil. 4:18-19, I Peter 1:1-5.

1. In what are the citizens of this world seeking an abundance of?
2. What are the things of abundance that Jesus promised to those who follow Him?

March 22 - Our Study - Deut. 17:9-20, Isa. 34:16-17, John 5:34-47, Acts 19:10-13, II Tim. 2:13-15.

1. Why is study so important?
2. Who should we strive to please, God or man?

March 29 - Our Blessings - I Kings 3:11-14, Ps. 68:15-19, Matt. 6:28-34, Mal. 3:10-14.

1. Are blessings earned or are they given free?
2. What are some of the reasons blessings stop coming?

Paul Stump
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(USPS 054-780)

BIBLE MONITOR

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MARCH 1, 1987

NO. 5

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE GIFTS OF GOD

His gifts are greater than my dreams,
The gifts of God to me;
As countless as the sunset's golden beams,
As boundless as the sea.

I ask a part, He gives the whole —
Himself, and all beside;
His loving kindness overflows my soul,
In-rushing as the tide.

"His ways are ways of pleasantness,
His paths are paths of peace;"
His hand is ever reaching out to bless;
He bids each sorrow cease.

Within my heart He shall have place
To rule and reign supreme;
My voice will ever praise Him for the grace
Of which I ne'er could dream.

- Jessie Brown Pounds

IN THE BEGINNING, GOD

The Biblical account begins with these words, "In the beginning, God". When men go back to find the beginning of this world's existence, God will be found there as Creator.

The human mind, though more powerful and compact than any computer, is incapable of understanding many things that are beyond its normal understanding. One of these things is eternity. Human minds are used to the beginning and the ending of things. The cemetery contains gravestones that give birthdates and death-dates. God is eternal. This is difficult for human reason to accept. The Bible makes this statement that must be accepted by faith that before the world was created, God already existed. When this world ends God will continue to exist. The many thousands of years that the world and its population exists will be but a short time in God's measurement of eternity. God does not look upon time, days, weeks, years, decades, centuries or millenia as we do.

Although our finite minds cannot grasp the reality of eternity, nevertheless we may enjoy eternity if we have properly exercised faith in our belief and living. We can look forward to those mansions that make up God's House. There, where time will not limit our enjoyment, we will have access to a city beyond anything known on this earth for beauty, size or endurance.

Knowing that out of nothing, God could by speaking bring forth this world and all that is in it, we should be willing to worship Him. It is far easier to believe that God could create the world and man than to accept the various theories of evolution that are plausible only if guesses, chances, great time spans and other impossibilities

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are accepted. There is not one, fully agreed upon theory of evolution, but many. The Biblical record remains the same since God moved the writer of Genesis to pen these words.

It should be a comfort to each human to know that he is a created being not the product of chance. God in His orderly manner created each part of His creation. The last of this wonderful miracle was the creation of man.

The creation of man was special. God had made the earth and the environment, the scenery and the animals. Though living it was dead Spiritually. Each was made according to God's plan but none could fellowship with God. So, He made man who, because he had a soul and God-breathed life, could have fellowship with God. The potential that this represented was tremendous and even though this fellowship was broken by Adam and Eve's sin, the difference between man and beast and flora and fauna and the rest of the creation is important.

The evolutionist sees man as a product of chance changes until he took the current form. Therefore, as the evolutionary product of lower animal life, man is but an animal himself. When people view themselves as but animals they live like animals. Far better for humans to understand they are God's creation and realize that they are not animals but are Spiritual beings capable of having fellowship with God Himself.

People live at the level that they perceive themselves to be at. If they are constantly told that they are but animals they will live like animals. They will appear in undress, will not work but what forced to like a horse or mule, will exhibit no self discipline over their sensual desires unless forced by someone stronger. On the other hand, if man realizes he is the creation of God he will control his natural passions and use his body and Spirit to serve his Creator. He will serve also his fellow being realizing the sacredness of life, as God given.

Many implications for our living come from our view of our origin. Either we live and behave like an animal or we live as God's created beings. Living as an animal cannot bring satisfaction to our own deeper longings nor to the God who desires that His creation should please Him. Only by realizing His purpose in our creation will bring as the fulfillment of our deepest needs.

The rest of God's creation pleases Him but the highest and best has so often failed to please Him. Even Adam and Eve, who knew daily communion with God, failed to please Him when they sinned by eating the forbidden fruit.

God has provided a way that men could again please Him. Through the gift of His own Son He has made the way that men

could please Him and fellowship with Him.

When we go back as far as we can — we find God is there. This same God still wants us to please Him and if we do, He has given us the promise of a Heavenly Home. In the beginning, God.... In the end, God.

THOU SHALT LOVE THE LORD THY GOD FIRST!

This is the central and first commandment of the Bible. On this commandment and love for your brother, hang the whole Word of God.

“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” Matt. 22:37-40.

You do not know God as Saviour if you don't know Him as Lord, or ruler of your life! Love means to put the loved one first.

Isaiah wrote to a group of people in the first chapter of his book who didn't put God first. Oh, they did all the right things.

“To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the Lord: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats. When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts? Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I can not away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting. Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them.”
Isaiah 1:11-14.

They offered their sacrifices of every kind, they came to the temple, they offered their incense, they kept their sabbaths and feasts, but God said, “away with them, I can't stand them.” Were these things wrong? No, never. Then what was the problem? They were following a form of godliness but didn't love God nor their neighbor.

“Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; Learn to do well; seek judgement, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.” Isaiah 1:16-17.

Now, let's get this down to us today. They sacrificed, we sacrifice. We are willing to face a ridiculing world with sacrificial piety. We do our duty and go to church once a week, as they went to the temple. They burned incense to God, and we are told in Rev. 8:3 that our prayers are incense before God. They kept their sabbaths and feasts, we keep the ordinances of the church of Jesus Christ.

But where is your heart? Do you lust after every scantily dressed woman you see? do you lust after money and riches? do you seek an easy life at any cost? are you perfectly honest at all times? do you take pleasure in reading your Bible? or is it a chore? do you pray daily and seek God's will in your life? Do you have vengeance in your heart against your fellow man who has wronged you? Do you demand your rights and your due? does your heart yearn to see the lost saved? Do hot tears swell up in your eyes for that neighbor or relative who doesn't know God as their Lord and Saviour? do you support the missionary who is in the front lines of life battling for souls' eternal destiny? In short, is your heart in tune with the heart and will of God? Or are you doing your own thing, in control of your own life?

What is the answer?

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." Isaiah 1:18-20.

The choice is yours. It is only one of two ways. Either willing and obedient to God, for God to lead you at any cost or to refuse and rebel; that is to do it your own way. Remember Israel! They were religious. They were pious. They kept the letter of the law but their hearts were not seeking the heart of God.

"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment." Mark 12:30.

Christ tells us here that our whole person must be involved. First, our heart. This is our spirit, who we really are. That is changed when we believe in Jesus as our Saviour and Lord. Second, mind and soul, that's our thought life. We must allow our born again spirits to bring our thought life into submission to God.

"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalted itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing

into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.
II Corinthians 10:5.

And third, our bodies or strength. When our spirit and mind are in submission, then our bodies will submit much easier. We, like the Israelites often get it backwards and try to reform the body when what we need is converted spirits! Notice again Isaiah 1:20.

"But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."

If we refuse, there is only judgement waiting here and in eternity, but if we accept, we will receive benefits here and in eternity.

"If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land." Isaiah 1:19.

You can through Christ!

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Philipians 4:13.

Brother Paul H. Mellott
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ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Real answers to a real problem... Divorce

There is no question that one of the most tragic problems plaguing the world... and the church... today is divorce and remarriage. We are alarmed that the divorce rate has reached half of all marriages... millions of homes shattered annually by Satan's chaos.

God instituted marriage to join man and woman in a permanent bond. He never intended for this bond to be broken. A husband and wife become "one flesh" and are not to be put asunder by man. (Matt. 19:4-6) As we assimilate the teaching from Matthew, we learn that there are several ingredients to this holy institution. As we learn that there is a "leaving" of parents, we see the establishment of a new home and a total new relationship. The incorporation of two lives into one means that the new husband is now the head of the household and the parents of both couples must realize this and allow the Biblical command for independence, as is taught by Christ, to be exercised.

Not only is there separation from parents but there is also a "cleaving" to each other. This comes from the Greek word, "to glue." This verifies the permanence of marriage and gives reason for staying together.

To become "one flesh" also gives rise to the idea of a total involvement of personalities, emotions and spirits of the man and woman. It is a beautiful entwining of lives in more than just a physical way. God looks at this instruction and sees only one... whom He joined together. To put the marriage "asunder" is like the trauma of severing a part of our physical body. There is pain and incompleteness.

Divorce has always been condemned by God. In the Old Testament, it became necessary for Moses to institute laws governing divorce and he gave the opportunity for divorce as a protection for the wife. Even as people misinterpret the law today, so the Pharisees tried to entrap Jesus in an explanation of it in Matthew 19.

Remember, marriage is a promise to God as well as it is to your partner. You have no right to break a promise to God or to each other. If men were to actually love their wives as Christ does the Church and wives respect their husbands as they would the Lord, marriage problems would cease and Christ-like love and concern would reign. As Jesus communicated to the Pharisees, he always ignored what they said about Moses and the Law relative to divorce and He would take them back to the beginning where God made no provision for this situation in His divine plan for marriage.

Malachi, the Prophet, said that God "hateth putting away." He did not relate a hate for those who were divorced and neither can we. But neither can we let social standards dictate our stand on this matter.

In Mark 10:11-12, we read of both the woman and man committing adultery. Also Luke 16:18 and I Cor. 7:39. These scriptures teach strongly against divorce. The Matthew 19:9 scripture has consistently been used incorrectly to show the Lord's acceptance in cases where one partner has been unfaithful. But this passage must be accepted in context to the other scriptures and understood relative to the other clearer teachings on the subject. If we look at Christ's audience when he made the Matthew statement we understand that He was communicating to the "Jewish mind" and a special audience. The betrothal in the Jewish culture was made by the parents. Ultimately when the marriage took place, the contract was signed and the dowery was exchanged. Even under the betrothal, Jewish law considered them married, even though both would return to their respective homes to be with their parents. A couple spent about a year in actual preparation for the public wedding.

During the time of the betrothal there could be no intimate contact by the couple even though by law they were married. This

is the reason we find Jews being specific about adultery... the sin committed by a person whose marriage has been consummated... or fornication... on the part of the betrothed. Punishment for intimate contact during the betrothal period was the "putting away" or divorcing of the offender. The penalty for adultery, on the other hand, was death by stoning. It would be clear, then, that the Matthew 19:9 scripture was talking about the betrothal period. He definitely was not giving permission for divorce and remarriage on the grounds of unfaithfulness. Remarriage is clearly defined as adultery.

The Bible teaching always shows adultery as sensual sin committed by married people and fornication as being committed by single or "engaged" people. The divorce or putting away could only take place during the betrothal period... before consummation of the marriage. The story of Joseph and Mary would illustrate our conclusion well. Joseph could "put Mary away" or divorce her because she would have been considered to have committed fornication. This could have happened outside of an understanding of the actual miracle of the Holy Spirit which occurred here. The Jews understood this practice and the book of Matthew was written especially to them. **THERE IS NO EXCEPTION CLAUSE FOUND IN THE BIBLE.** Divorce is not condoned and remarriage of divorced people compounds the sin and further complicates it.

We must understand these teachings and where divorce has occurred, we must also lovingly share our lives with those who have experienced its trauma and teach them that remarriage is impossible under God's law... unless one of the partners is no longer living. We must strongly uphold this standard and cannot waver or give in to current trends and false teachings in modern churches. Careful and loving partner selection must be clearly taught and understood by the single membership. And understand, this is not a preference or conviction of the church body, but it is an **ABSOLUTE** command of God. There can be **NO REMARRIAGE** outside of God's clear teaching on the subject. I lay no options before you. We must put God's teachings above our desires and sacrifice all for Him. Lay it on the Altar... and there you will find the **REAL** answer to this problem.

Brother Len Wertz



Don't saw off the branch you are sitting on.

SALVATION IS:

Salvation is what we do for Christ? No! Salvation is what Jesus has already done and will now do for us. Salvation is deliverance—from evil, from the power and penalty of sin. It is deliverance from one condition, that of being dead in sin, and made alive in another. Salvation means a new life in Christ, not just a reformation of the old life. Salvation is to be saved or redeemed from sin, something which only Jesus can do.

In the Old Testament, trust in God and obedience to the law were requirements. Repentance, along with certain sacrifices, was also commanded. It was a rather complicated process, with periodic repetitions of the rituals. They were looking forward to the coming of Christ while living by the Law. Now, as then, trust in God is of utmost importance. Obedience follows our step of faith. Rather than offering sacrifices, we are living sacrifices. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Rom. 12:1.

Salvation is deliverance from sin and its power, both in this life and in Eternity. Sin brought with it a host of heartaches and problems, and the only solution is salvation. There is a song with the words "Jesus is right for whatever's wrong in your life." We need to believe this before we can experience deliverance. Salvation and all its blessings are available to all, but it is received only by faith. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." Eph. 2:8.

"Not of works, lest any man should boast." Eph. 2:9. Salvation is totally undeserved and there's nothing we can do to earn it. It is available to us because of God's love and mercy. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. Faith in Christ comes first, then the good works are to follow, but we cannot earn salvation.

When we are converted, we turn from sin unto faith in Christ. Old ways, old habits, old attitudes won't fit in this new life, so we must be regenerated. This means our sinful nature must change. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new." II Cor. 5:17. This verse tells us that we WILL change if we're in Christ. If we haven't changed, we haven't been born again.

Our justification comes to us through faith in Christ. Through faith, we receive forgiveness and are restored to favor with God. We are given Christ's righteousness and we are adopted. This

means we now belong in God's family, and are subject to His control. Naturally speaking, we live by the rules of the family which we are a part of and this same principle applies spiritually. When we are in God's family, we live by His rules.

To sanctify anything is to declare that it belongs to God. For us, this means we are separated from the world and consecrated unto God. Sanctification begins when we become a Christian and is completed when we see Christ. In other words, we belong to God from start to finish in the Christian walk. Regardless of the past sins, when we come to Christ, all is made new and the sinful past is left behind.

Conversion, adoption, justification, regeneration, sanctification — all come under the heading of salvation. All point to a changed heart, a changed mind, a changed life. "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." Rom. 6:11. Salvation is all that Christ has done for us. Have you been delivered? Are you now alive in Him?

Sister Eileen Broadwater

THE ORDINANCE OF FEET WASHING

John 13:3-17

The ordinance of feet washing is a sacred rite established by Jesus, Himself for His Church. Jesus knew He would soon leave the disciples and He wanted to establish these Church ordinances which would be helpful in their spiritual life and develop a right feeling toward each other.

A full evening meal was prepared. As Jesus and His disciples gathered around the table, Jesus arise, laid aside His outer coat, girded Himself with a towel and poured water into a basin. He then washed and wiped the disciples feet.

When Jesus came to Peter, Peter said, "Thou shalt never wash my feet!" He felt that he was too unworthy for his master to stoop down and wash his feet.

Jesus answered, "If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me." Then Peter was sorry and was willing to have his feet washed.

After Jesus had washed and wiped all their feet, He sat down again and said, "If I, then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example that ye should do as I have done to you." I John 13:14-15.

He also said, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." I John 13:17.

As water baptism symbolizes an inward cleansing, so feet-washing symbolizes the continuance of that cleansing. During the feet washing service, our minds should be directed to the need of cleansing from sin. We should feel the desire to obtain the spirit of humble and loving service.

Feet washing brings spiritual blessing, for in keeping this ordinance, we show our love to Christ.

Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." "And happy are ye if ye do them."

All those who desire a part in Christ's Kingdom, will be partakers of this cleansing service that we may be clean before Him and show our obedience to His perfect example.

Sister Maxine Surbey

AUTHORITY BY SUBMISSION

I Corinthians 11:10 "For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels."

Titus 2:15 "These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee."

James 4:7 "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

If a group of individuals were asked to define the words "authority" and "submission," the great majority would no doubt classify them as opposites. This type of thinking would, of course, be correct depending on how you use the words. With this in mind we would like to think about what authority and submission mean within the context of the Church. But first of all let us think for a few moments about what these words mean in a secular setting.

When we think of authority probably the first thing to come to mind is civil government. Essentially we have two types of government, with variations of each form. One form of government is totalitarianism and the other is democratic or republic forms of government. In the former the government heads have complete control of the population. In the latter the constituents have control over the leadership. The greatest difference between the two is that in totalitarianism type of government the people are in complete submission to the leadership while in a democratic or republican type of government the leadership must be in submission to those they serve in order to remain in office. While many refer to our type of government as a democracy (which is government directly by the people) there are in actuality very few, if any, true democracies in existence. Most free governments are in

reality republic (government by the people through elected leadership) in form.

When we come to "Church government" we enter a whole new type of thinking. In a sense the Church is a democracy. Everyone within the true Church has the right to decide who they desire for leadership and what rules should apply to the group. In another sense the Church is a republic. God has ordained that we set men in positions of authority over congregations. While these men are to rule they are also to be open to the decisions of the laity. But the Church is also totalitarian in government. This is because the Church is a theocracy. This means that God is the head and what He says is the final rule. Now let us look into the "rulebook."

At first glance our first verse may not seem to have anything at all to do with our subject. But in the Greek the word for "power" (exousia) can also be translated "authority." Paul has already informed us that a woman does not have authority over the man in this chapter. In another of his writings he informs us that a woman does not have the authority to preach. In verse four of this chapter he informs us that wearing the prayer veil gives her the authority to pray and prophesy. Whatever "prophesy" refers to, it can not refer to preaching in public or Paul would be guilty of contradicting himself. This authority she possesses is given because she is willing to submit to the ordained leadership of man and the one who ordained it, God. This principle is the foundation for true Church government, as we shall see.

Our second study verse is the last verse of Titus 2. Verse one of this chapter informs us what is being spoken about. "But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine." We will not go into detail on the things that Paul sees as "sound doctrine" but urge you to read it for yourself. In Ephesians 5 we have very similar instruction given. In verse 21 we find these words. "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God." We believe here we find God instructing us to be bold in our leadership yet to be submissive to one another. This can only be accomplished when we recognize the true head, Jesus Christ, God in the flesh. In free countries, such as America, the ruling document is our Constitution. Both the leadership and the general population is to be ruled by this decree. In the Church the Holy Bible is to be our final word for faith and practice, especially the New Testament. There is an important difference between the Constitution and the Holy Bible. If a law within a country becomes unacceptable with the majority it can be amended and therefore becomes null and void. Unfortunately, many within the earthly church would like to do the same with Holy Scripture. But this is not the "submitting your-

selves one to another" that Paul is referring to. Rather it is "in the fear of God." The earthly church, to a large degree, has lost its fear of God. It has replaced it with a syrupy type of "love" of God. This brings us to our last study verse.

As we look at this last verse we should remind ourselves that in John 5:26-30 we find that even Jesus Christ, God the Son, willingly submitted Himself to God the Father. Earlier in this chapter we find the authority that God the Father gave God the Son. If we desire authority we must submit ourselves to God. This verse also tells us who we have authority over, the devil or Satan. We believe the reason Satan has so much power in and over the earthly church is because we refuse to submit ourselves to God and His Word. All too often we desire to rule over one another and use our selfish desires to try to control the thoughts of others. The "big ME" has all too often replaced the scriptural "WE." Today this has caused the majority to be submissive to the ways of the world in place of God. But this too is foretold in scripture.

To enjoy authority we must first of all submit ourselves to the saving grace of God through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Then we must submit ourselves to the leading of the Holy Spirit through the reading of the Holy Word (The Bible). Last of all we must submit ourselves one to another in the fear of God. This will bring true authority over the devil and bring true authority into the Church.

James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

SIXTY YEARS AGO

March 1, 1927

THE POWER OF THE CHURCH

B. E. Kesler

Every institution that has a right to existence has certain inalienable rights for the regulation of its own government and the management of its own internal affairs.

The Church as one such institution has such right and no one but disloyal members denies her this right.

Government in the church, as in other institutions, is the enforcement of certain rules and regulations for the peace and unity of its membership and for oneness in its practice of the ordinances and institutions of the body. Without this, "every one becomes a law unto himself," and confusion and discord is the result.

The best government is self government, and when this is properly exercised little external government is needed, but in the church as in other institutions, there are always some disloyal, disorderly ones, and even some incorrigibles who must be held under restraint by the enforcement of external discipline.

"Let a man examine himself" is the law, and when this is done with a view of keeping in line with the principles and usages of the church all is well, and harmony prevails. "If we would judge ourselves we should not be judged." When this is done in the light of the truth and a desire to be loyal and true to the church, little need exists for rules and methods of discipline. But, in many instances, when the guilty alone sits in judgment in his own case, conviction does not follow for, "the ways of a man," in many instances, "are right in his own eyes."

The modern plea for internal discipline, or self examination alone, to the exclusion of Bible discipline by the church as a body empowered to regulate the life and conduct of its membership, has broken down all submission to the rightful rule and authority of the church to enforce discipline upon the unruly and disobedience, confusion, discord, and division that now exists, in the evidence of it.

The final resort in case of offenders is "tell it to the church." Why tell the church? So the offender may be brought into submission or to make his wrongs right, and if he will not do this, "let him be unto thee as the heathen man and the Publican," which the last resort by the church, not only by the offended one as an individual, but by the church as a body. So we are told to "withdraw from every brother that walketh disorderly", and this must be done by the church as a body and not only by the individual. Hence Bible discipline, enforced through church government.

The "Teach them to observe all things" (Matt. 28:20) applies as much to the general life and conduct as to the prominent ordinances of the church. Teaching is all right and to the docile, is all-sufficient, but for the lawless and disobedient more drastic measures are sometimes necessary.

The loyal citizen is not fined, imprisoned and punished. It is the disloyal incorrigibles that have to be subject to restraint. So in thee church laws are not for the loyal and faithful but for the lawless and the disobedient and the presumptuous who "despise government."

The unfortunate thing in the case is the failure to enforce Bible discipline impartially. This condition is true to an alarming extent under civil government. The common citizen is quite often punished for crimes which certain others commit with impunity.

In the church trivial matters are sometimes made or subjected to

an action of the council while gross crime go unpunished. It is so hard to attain to that standard that we "know no man after the flesh."

The best regulated families we have are those where family rules and regulations are observed even if they have to be enforced. Parents have learned to teach and "train up a child in the way it should go" is fine, but in spite of this there are some incorrigibles that must be subjected to restraint and that to "spare the rod" often means to "spoil the child", and even the Father has learned that he must "chastize" and "scourge" his children sometimes.

Need we then expect less of the church?

Has the State and the family a right to enforce discipline? Why should not the church have the same authority? It is not supposed the church should be a tyrant in this matter, any more than the state or the family should be such, but as in these, in matters of privilege and propriety, the authority of the church over the individual is supreme, and peace and order and harmony prevail without the exercise of this authority.

NEWS ITEMS

NOTICE TO ALL DISTRICT WRITING CLERKS

All material for printing in "Business for General Conference" must be in my hand by April 15.

Brother William Carpenter
Writing Clerk for General Conference

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

The Lord willing, the Dallas Center Congregation is planning to have their Spring Lovefeast April 4 and 5. We invite each one to come and worship with us. Services begin at 10:45 Saturday morning with the Lovefeast Service that evening. Services are planned for all day Sunday. Pray for us.

Sister Becky Funk, Cor.

THANK YOU

God bless all of you for the many cards and letters received by my Mother, Sister Mary (W.S.) Reed for her 90th birthday. She enjoyed reading all of them. Thank you very much.

Sister Fae Kasza

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 6

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

OUR HIDING PLACE

Jesus is our hiding place
In a land of turmoil,
He will shelter us from storms...
Provide our "Lamps with oil."

If we snuggle close to Him
When winds are raging wild -
He will keep us safe from sin
When we become His "child."

Peace He gives unto our soul -
A peace we can't explain...
When the storm has spent itself
The sun will shine again.

While we're living here on earth
On Him we will rely,
He'll guide us through the strait gate
To mansions in the sky.

- Sister Irene Stout
R. 1 Box 160, Wabash, IN

REAPING THE WHIRLWIND

Hurricanes and tornadoes are very destructive. When these whirlwinds go through a community there will be left in their wake destroyed homes and other buildings, uprooted trees and other displaced landscape and lost lives. No wonder there is serious attention paid to warnings given out when these storms are approaching. People are quick to find shelter to protect themselves as much as possible.

As destructive and dangerous as these storms are there is another whirlwind that has even greater consequences. Jesus warned, "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." Matt. 10:28. A tornado or hurricane may take away a person's life but it does not determine that soul's destiny. There is a greater consequence than the body's demise to consider. That is the eternal destiny of the soul.

The Prophet Hosea spoke of the coming of such a whirlwind. "For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind." Hosea 8:7a. The Prophet was speaking in particular about the northern ten tribes, Israel. They had quit serving God and were now serving idols. They had fallen to the worship of a molten calf much like what their ancestors had seen in Egypt and had worshipped at Mt. Sinai. Because of this idolatry they would be sent back into bondage, like it was in Egypt. Israel would soon be conquered and crushed by Assyria. Their false gods would not be able to help them no matter how much they might sacrifice to them. They had left the only God who could have rescued them. They

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would be reaping the whirlwind.

A wind is a small thing but a whirlwind is great, powerful and destructive. Sowing the wind is no great thing. It does not take much effort, but it can bring forth a great destruction. Wind is light and supposedly of little consequences, but it can soon bring something larger. Sowing a little wind instead of following the Holy Spirit brings great consequences. The wind pictures the light and vain activities of the world. The human heart and mind is attracted by its cooling breezes and balmy promises. The sowing of the wind pictures the sowing of sin. It is so easy and so natural that little thought is given to it, just like a breeze that precedes a destructive windstorm. The whirlwind that comes afterward is but the natural outcome of the wind that is sown, ever so carelessly and thoughtlessly.

God has established a law concerning sowing and reaping. That law applies naturally and Spiritually. Gal. 6:7, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." In the natural when wheat is planted; it is wheat that will be grown. Corn will produce corn; oats, oats and so on. God has ordained, since the Creation, that like produces like. One species does not become another species. What is sown will determine the harvest!

This same law works in the Spiritual realm also. "For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption: but he that soweth to the spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." Gal. 6:8. If man sows the carnal, lustful and worldly, he will reap the corruption that is the result. Corruption is the natural end of the flesh. It decays and dies. Where corruption is, there is no eternal life. The deeds that seem so pleasureable and even innocent may lead to eternal separation from God. Satan lures men into these deeds by promises of fun, fortune and fame. He never reveals what the real end of these deeds will be.

The deeds done while sowing to the Spirit will bring everlasting life. These deeds may not seem so great at the time but they will be according to God's will. Finding favor with God will bring blessings in this life, as well as the enjoyable harvest later on. Sowing to the Spirit may involve doing things contrary to worldly wisdom, but will prove to be the wisest things we could do.

The destruction of our physical lives is of less importance than the preserving of the soul. To preserve the soul we must sow the right kind of life. We cannot fool God. He knows what we are doing. Although we may be able to hide what we're doing from our friends, relatives and neighbors we cannot hide it from God. He sees all. He knows all. The minister and the congregation may not know but God does. He is the One who will judge in the end so it is

important that we meet His standard. The whirlwind speaks of His judgment so if we are sowing the wind we will have to face that whirlwind. It is better that we sow to the Spirit so we can have life everlasting.

What are you sowing? What will your harvest be?

OUR CHOICES BECOME BLESSINGS OR CURSES

"Behold I set before you this day a blessing and a curse." Deut. 11:26. This was Yahweh speaking through His servant Moses to His people. If we are His people it is still an admonition to us, and also a warning. "Jesus Christ the same yesterday (Old Testament), and today (New Testament), and for ever." Heb. 13:8. I am Yahweh, I change not.

Obedience means doing God's works, keeping His commandments and receiving His blessings, or disobeying and serving the carnal man, or Satan, and receiving Satan's curse. John 14:23; 15:10.

Let us notice a few examples: Satan enticed Adam very much as he entices both young and old today. He causes us to think this is not very bad and it would be so enjoyable. Adam believed Satan's lie and chose to do that which God had said, "Thou shalt not", traded his luxurious life in the beautiful garden for a life of hardship and DEATH which the human race still suffers from and always will as long as time lasts. So when we choose to do wrong, we will also cause our family and others to suffer because of our choices.

Cain through jealousy chose to kill his own brother Abel, was cursed with a lifelong mark, went out from the presence of the Lord and became a vagabond in the earth.

Esau chose to trade his birthright for a mess of red pottage to satisfy his carnal appetite and lost his soul, though he sought it carefully with tears. Heb. 12:16-17.

There are many examples in the Bible of many people who made wrong choices, wrecked their earthly lives, often other people's also, by choosing to follow carnal lusts and believe Satan's lies.

But some were wise, how they gave us inspiration, when we read the account of the victorious lives they lived and the blessings they received. For instance the young man Joseph, a victim of circumstances stood severe tests, torn from his home by jealous brothers, lived the overcoming life in a strange land, was in the end mightily blessed and became the second ruler in Egypt.

Daniel a captive young man in the barbarous nation of Babylon stood with his God through many trials including the lions den, was victorious through wise choices and became the second ruler of Babylon — not just a kingdom but the world power and kingdom of his day.

Dare to be a Daniel,
Dare to stand alone,
Dare to have a purpose true,
Dare to make it known.

Job, a wealthy king stood for God, lost his family, friends, possessions and wealth, everything but his faith in God, but in the end was mightily blessed of God with two times as much as he had before his loss.

Noah obeyed God, spent one hundred and twenty years building an ark to take his family safely through a world flood, though there had never been rain upon the earth before, and sang praises while the rain poured down and the great depths were broken up. The wicked world perished in the flood because they made the choice of the curse instead of obeying God's warnings through his servant Noah's preaching. Hebrews 11 gives us many examples.

The choices you and I have made or will make will also determine our destiny in either blessings or cursings just as much so as in the days of these Bible characters. Many are selling their souls to a life of curse and eternal damnation for things of less value than a mess of red pottage. Life is uncertain, death is sure, and whether we cross Jordan early or late then time is no longer and eternity has begun. Our choices here will determine our state while the milleniums rail either with Lazarus in glory or the rich man in torments. Luke 16. Their destiny was not determined because one was poor the other rich, but because of their choices to serve God or not during their lives. Many are called but few are chosen because people reject God. My prayer is that many will strive to be as Noah, Joseph, Daniel and Job who have made wise choices.

I would like to let a word of encouragement to young here. The wise man, Solomon, said "Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not..." If you never take the first drink of alcoholic beverages you will never be a drunkard, if you never smoke the first cigarette you will never suffer from nicotine. Many other things should never be indulged in such as lying, taking that which is not yours, taking drugs, never indulging in immoral acts, watching television that diverts the mind from God to sin and so forth. Many are the pitfalls. The choice of a companion can be a blessing or an unhappy life on earth depending on our own choice to live for God, and the person we choose to live with. It is easy to get involved in sin that is extremely hard to get loose from once we become its servant. The young person is free to choose a straight path, but once the way of life has become crooked it is difficult to straighten and a marred reputation is difficult to erase.

Godly parents who train their children after God's Word are

invaluable to their families and other people about them. We as parents and grandparents should ask ourselves some serious questions, first about our children's lives.

"If any man love the world the love of the father is not in him." I John 2:15. We cannot serve both God and mammon.

The choice is ours, our eternal future hangs on our choices. Today is the day of salvation, tomorrow may be too late. The things we prize and seek after in this world today may become ashes to us tomorrow. May God bless you abundantly.

Sister Ruth M. Snyder
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I WANTED IT THAT WAY

"It made alot of extra work, but, I wanted it that way." "Some people didn't like it, but I wanted it that way." Sometimes we set our hearts on having things a certain way — a house, a job, an activity — and we're not satisfied until it is exactly that way. We tend to ignore the distress we cause others, the hardships we impose on family and friends while fulfilling our own wishes. "I wanted it that way" expresses self-satisfaction, often at the expense of someone else.

"I wanted it that way" sounds like nothing else matters, that no one else's wishes are important. The fact is that what we personally want isn't what counts, but what God wants for us. That should come first. The needs of others must be considered also, as our own rights stop where someone else's begins. Jesus expects us to be givers, not takers, and "I want it that way" cannot be the theme of our lives.

"I wanted it that way" signifies self-indulgence, but Jesus taught self-denial. "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." Matt. 16:24. Following Jesus requires something of us. It can't be a passive, care-free relationship, with little or no thought about the welfare of those around us. We must set aside our own will and desires so we can do Christ's will.

All of us have heard a little child say, "But I WANT that!" Children become very unhappy at times when required to share, or to stop playing with a fragile item, and so forth. Parents know that which their children want isn't always what is best for them. Neither is it good for adults to always have what they want. Yet some are just like a child, wanting their own way and becoming very unhappy when they don't get it.

Jesus expects us to be mature, to share, to be considerate and kind. He expects us to follow Him in faith and to serve one another

in love. Failure to do so indicates we've not yet grown up spiritually. "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man I put away childish things." I Cor. 13:11. If you are still wanting your own way, it's time to leave your childish ways behind and go on to become an adult. This is what Jesus wants for you.

Sometimes when we say "I want it that way", God allows us to have exactly what we want. But, as with the prodigal son (see Luke 15), it's not to our advantage. He wanted his own way, but after he got it, he regretted it very much. He started out in luxury but ended up with nothing. In due time, this young man did wake up and acknowledge his wrong. He decided that his father knew best, and home was where he went. Our Heavenly Father knows best also, and the sooner we realize it, the better.

When we say, "I want it that way", we should mean that we want it Christ's way. There should be a determination in our hearts to do what He wants done. Jesus prayed "Not my will, but Thine be done" at the most difficult time in His life. He was facing the Cross and all the intense suffering which went with it. Jesus did that for us. Can we not then yield to His will, as He did to the Father?

Sometimes we must set aside our desires in order to care for someone else. The good Samaritan cared for the seriously wounded man, entirely at his own expense. Whatever plans he had were set aside until this robbery victim's needs were taken care of. Read Luke 10:25-37. The Samaritan had a heart of compassion, and he did all he could to help the injured man. No one had to remind him to act. No one had to say, "This is your responsibility." His actions came from his heart.

Jesus wants us to serve Him with a willing heart. What He wants should be what we want. This means we'll be considerate of those around us. When a need arises, we will respond in love, not with a grudging heart. We will be submissive to Jesus in our everyday lives and will find joy in so doing, because we know He knows best. Is it this way in your heart, or are you still saying, "I want it my way"?

Sister Eileen Broadwater

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Watching the Signs"

We are living in a time when the churches of the world are going through tremendous transition. In the conservative church of the 80's, we need to constantly be measuring what we are doing in the church with the yardstick of truth, God's Word. I believe we frequently address the perversion of the world and her church but are

we watching the signs for apostasy in the true church. Make no mistake. Satan is working prolifically to make inroads into all aspects of our faith. We speak easily about the darker pages of church history and possibly we tend to live in the fruit of the victories of our fathers. But what do we watch for as CAUTION signs for both theology and practical church administration?

1. The first danger sign is when the church becomes bent on quantity at the expense of quality in her membership. We see the "numbers racket" being played frequently today. Of course we would appreciate having millions of people in the body but to sacrifice Biblical principle just to get one member would be an affront to God.

2. Secondly, a danger sign to watch is a church that is no longer standing for separation. This has become a gray area for once fundamental groups of believers. Separation can not be a gray area to the true church as God requires it of His followers. II Cor. 6:17 teaches us to, "Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you." It is a sad statement when parents believe this applies to themselves but when it comes to worldly achievements for their children, they support them in these activities.

3. Another danger sign is a church that practices discrimination. This applies to race and in the broader context of the word it applies to being respectors of persons within the body. You might feel a person is spiritually inferior if they do not dress exactly as you do or even if they do not use your choice of pharisiology in public prayer. Apply caution here.

4. A danger sign of our day is to see the church so carried away with a false definition of love that it fails to exercise Christ ordained discipline. Paul tells us in I Cor. 5:13 that members not in obedience to Christ and the church should be allowed to correct their lives or be put away. It would appear that churches today feel love is expressed in allowing sin in the body rather than "lovingly" correcting it.

5. In addition, another danger sign is thrown up before us if we, as a church, are unwilling to receive a fallen believer back into our fellowship after Biblical repentance has been experienced. How is it that we feel unconditional forgiveness is to come from God to us but not from us to others? Eph. 4:32 says "...FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER, EVEN AS GOD FOR CHRIST'S SAKE HATH FORGIVEN YOU."

6. Watch for a church without an "outreach" and this should be a sign of weakness in Biblical character.

7. There is a danger sign posted when we see an emphasis on

programs in the place of God's Word being proclaimed or discussed. There are those things done by the world to get the masses to come in to the church today. Frequently it involves the wrong use of music.. or the wrong kind of music. This is the "trick-or-treat church" that uses all kinds of gimmicks and ultimately will be tricked by Satan himself.

8. The danger flag is also up when we cease to do things in the church in order and decently. I will agree that we might become so formal in our service that we lose the spontaneity of honest worship but the other extreme is the "open service" that allows for little dignity in worship.

9. We should see a danger sign when one or two ministers act as "popes" in their understanding of leadership. The church from its inception was a theocratic democracy under the leadership of Christ. This most always leads away from a Christ centered worship to minister dictated worship. Equally dangerous is when a church leadership refuses to accept correction. The concept of servanthood of leaders can never be negated.

10. Watch for the danger sign of people in church leadership doing things in the body for spite. Paul talks of preaching Christ "even of envy and strife..." This leads to ultimate disaster for the body. Again we might look at these dangerous factors of church leadership: a. When we have a local church mostly governed by relatives, problems are eminent. b. When male leadership roles are usurped by women, disorder will occur as it is out of harmony with the scriptures. c. Finally, a church with policy dictated from without that body can be a great danger sign.

11. To have a Biblical polity and not obey it is a danger sign of spiritual sleepiness. A polity is important because it allows the church as a whole to make decisions and takes that responsibility away from individuals. It removes the word "I" and allows "we" to reign.

12. Danger... when we begin to overemphasize any part of the spiritual gifts or God's law. This would especially apply to the Holy Spirit today in failing to glorify God and give the Godhead their rightful places.

13. Finally, watch for the danger sign of the church preaching ABOUT the Bible and not preaching what is IN the Bible. Don't be lethargic but be alert to the signs of the true church verses one fallen into apostacy. We MUST function at the highest level of scriptural teaching. WATCH THE SIGNS.

Brother Len Wertz

THE LORD' SUPPER

John 13

The Lord's supper was the last meal that Jesus had the privilege of eating with His disciples. This was an evening meal where they were gathered together for a time of fellowship. When the food had been blessed, they tarried one for the other in brotherly love.

This meal points forward to the time when Jesus is coming again. It also is a memorial service to remind us of the love of Christ for us. "Having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end." John 13:1.

We usually have boiled meat and a soup made from the broth, which has pieces of bread broken into it. There is also bread to eat with the meat and water to drink. There is one place of meat and one bowl of soup for each four persons. Each brother or sister reaches his spoon into the bowl of soup, one at a time, thus taking turns. Usually the meat is spread on bread and eaten as a sandwich.

During the time of eating this meal, we should be thoughtful and quiet, meditating upon the words of Christ when He said, "I appoint unto you a kingdom, even as my Father has appointed unto me, that ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom." Luke 22:29.

We also think of the marriage supper of the Lamb mentioned in Rev. 19:9 and look forward in glad anticipation and desire to be there in His presence.

This service which we observe in obedience with Christ's teaching, will bring us peace and joy and is a great blessing to us. It helps us to renew our love for the brethren and sisters of our church.

Sister Maxine Surbey

BEATITUDES FOR HOMEMAKERS

"Blessed is she whose daily tasks are a work of love; for her willing hands and happy heart transfers duty into joyous service.

"Blessed is she who opens the door to welcome both stranger and well-loved friend; for gracious hospitality is a test of brotherly-sisterly love.

"Blessed is she who mends stockings and toys and broken hearts; for her understanding is a balm to her husband and children.

"Blessed is she who scours and scrubs; for well she knows that cleanliness is one expression of Godliness. (Somewhat passe', today.)

"Blessed is she whom children love; for the love of a child is of

greater value than fortune or fame.

"Blessed is she who sings at her work; for music lightens the heaviest load and brightens the dulllest chore. (Even if you can't carry a tune?)

"Blessed is she who dusts away doubt and fear and sweeps out the cobwebs of confusion; for her faith will triumph over all activity.

"Blessed is she who serves laughter and smiles with every meal; for her cheerfulness is an aid to mental and physical digestion.

"Blessed is she who preserves the sacredness of the home; for hers is a divine trust that crowns her with dignity."

- Anonymous

Selected by Sister Mary Stump

LIGHT AND DARKNESS

In this life we should be more concerned about spiritual light, our lifeline to eternal glory. Today there are many professing Christians who are not a Christian light to those who are living in darkness in this wicked and sinful world. God is light. The light of the world is Jesus. Come to the light it is shining for thee. It has dawned upon true Christians and they have become a bright and shining light of truth and righteousness in this dark and sinful world.

Light will not commune with darkness. Turn on a light in a dark room and the darkness disappears. Jesus said "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid." We cannot be a Christian light to others and engage in the great evils of the world. What fellowship has righteousness with unrighteousness? What communion has light with darkness? And what concord has Christ with belial?

The true Christian is a bright and shining light for Jesus. We are to be a Christian light to those who are living in darkness. Whosoever hates his brother abides in darkness. We cannot be a bright and shining light for Jesus without all the fruits of the Spirit. Christ gave us an example of love and peace.

In the creation of the earth God said let there be light and there was light. The Psalmist David said the Lord is my light. Christian light is shown through righteousness. The path of the just is a shining light. Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and that the Lord may be glorified. Are we letting our light shine clear and bright in this dark and sinful world.

Many love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil. In the scriptures we are told some waited for light then came darkness. The Apostle Paul said he saw through a glass darkly. When the light shines in dark places it divides light from dark. They of the darkness become vain in their imaginations and their foolish

hearts are darkened. Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness but rather reprove them.

For salvation we turn from darkness to the shining light of the saving Gospel. We have in our day rulers of darkness of this world. The call is, "Come out of darkness into the marvelous light of the Gospel." In our Saviour there is no darkness at all.

Christian let your light shine all along the way,
You may guide a wanderer to eternal day.

Here in this world we have light and darkness; in the eternal city of God there will be no darkness, no storms, no dark clouds, no night there. The Christian light is the lifeline to eternal glory. All those who are living a sinful and wicked life are in darkness. Here in this world many robberies, burglaries and other evil deeds are committed in the dark hours of the night.

All true Christian lives are a light to the world. Christ is our light and lifeline in this world and will be the light in the eternal city of God.

The call comes from our Saviour, "Come to the light, it is shining for thee." Are we a bright Christian light in this dark and sinful world? The Christian light is the lifeline to eternal glory and opposed to the works of darkness.

Throw out the Lifeline across the dark wave,...
Someone is sinking today.

Only those who walk in the light of our Saviour will be permitted to live in the eternal city of God where all is light.

Brother J. F. Marks
804 W. Sundial Loop
Plant City, FL 33566

SIXTY YEARS AGO

March 15, 1927

THE INSPIRATION OF THE SCRIPTURES

Charles N. Stutsman

No doubt there are few, if any, of my readers but would readily answer "yes" to the question, "Do you believe the Scriptures to be inspired?" But, suppose you were in the place of a local Sunday School Teacher, who was teaching the lesson of January 16, and upon coming to the quotation from Paul in II Tim. 3:16, a High School teacher among your pupils asked, "How do you know they are?" Are you ready to give real and intelligible reasons for your belief?

Nor is this question unimportant, to be cast aside as though unworthy of serious consideration. For upon the correct answer to this depends the answer to other vital and related questions, which

may seem more startling, but which surely follow: such as "Is Jesus actually risen from the dead?" "Is Jesus really a Virgin's Son?" "Is Hell a reality, or merely a condition or the dreams of some disordered mind?"

It is an old and trite saying that "There are two sides to every question." To this particular question there are the Inside and the Outside, that is the Internal and the External evidences of Inspiration of the Scriptures we know as The Bible. Thus, within the Scriptures we find many evidences that they were not original with the men known as the authors.

The Scriptures referred to by the Master when here on earth in the flesh, and which we know as The Old Testament, were held in His estimation to be one unit and intact as one complete message. With the variety of individual authors, and the widely separated times and places of writing, there is no adequate explanation for the unity and consistency of them, except "Inspiration." Why is there not a variety of themes and conflicting theories of religions, as is found in every group of uninspired writings by even contemporaneous writers. The only satisfactory answer is "Inspiration — one supreme and all-wise God inspiring them all."

In Matt. 5:18 and in Luke 16:17, Christ emphasizes the sanctity and value of the least letter or literary particle of the "Law", which meant the writings of Moses. This language of Christ's sounds very much like the very verbal INSPIRATION, of which so many modern professors of religion have such fear and horror. Again, in John 10:34-35, Christ quotes Psalms 82:6, calling them "Scriptures which cannot be broken." Thus He stamps the Psalms with the seal of inviolability. But the Psalmist was there quoting from Exodus 22:28, so that the "Law" and "Psalms" are here linked together as of equal dependence. In Luke 16:29-31, "Moses and the Prophets" are represented as sufficient revelation for the salvation of an Israelite, so that the prophets are thus added by Christ to the list of approved authorities. Also hear Him, in Mark 7:10-13, contrast what "Moses said" with "Ye say," and sum it all up in the thirteenth verse by naming what "Moses said" as the word of God. This is why we know they are inspired! In Luke 24:44-45 we find Christ expounding "all things which were written" of Him, whether in "Moses," or the "Psalms," or the "Prophets." These three groups include all of our Old Testament, and were known by the Jews by these very names here used by Christ. Why could Christ so readily expound these Scriptures? Because He had been with the real author, who inspired them, and knew their message.

But not only does Christ set His seal of approval upon the Old Testament, for in John 14:26 we find Him guaranteeing the accuracy of the Apostolic recollection and endorsing the product thereof. "All things shall be brought to your remembrance, that I

have said to you." This means our "Gospels," which are recollected accounts of His words and deeds; our "Acts," which are historical accounts; and any parts of Apostolic writings were instructions are given as from the Lord or by His authority. And again in John 16:12-13, He guarantees the dependability and the inspiration of all Apostolic teaching and writing, which includes their letters, General or Special. In fact, that is all of what we know as New Testament.

But there are also certain External evidences of Inspiration, for history corroborates this claim to Divinity of Authorship. But history is nothing more nor less than the certain accounts of events or experiences of mankind. Note, then that this history shows that man has not been able to destroy this Bible, though repeated and concerted attempts have been made. If man had made it, he could destroy it, for what one has made, he can destroy. This Bible is therefore not man's product. Again, this Bible contains much history written in advance of the fact, and accurately detailed. Never have mere man been able to produce sure and dependable prophecy such as this. They are therefore not man-made. And this Bible can and does regenerate men, making them morally, mentally and spiritually clean. Never has the product of any master been able to recreate its own Creator. Such a paradox is unthinkable, but would be the case if these Scriptures were the result of man's ingenuity. Neither has any literary gem or masterpiece of man been able to throw off the physical limitations of time and space, and be always and universally adaptable and dependably practical. But by Inspiration this Bible has proven the boom of all needs of the spirit within man at all times and in all places of earth. Nor should we overlook the repeated testimony and experiences of those Saints, whose lives reach their climax in that grand song of victory, "I'm acquainted with the Author, and I know the Book is true!" No theorizing can successfully contradict the living experiences of God's loyal and true, who have thus given us their cumulative testimonies.

NEWS ITEMS

McCLAVE, COLORADO

Lord willing, the McClave Congregation will be hosting the District Meeting of the Third District, the weekend of April 11 through 13. There will be all-day services on Saturday and Sunday with Lovefeast Service on Saturday evening. The business meeting will be Monday morning.

We invite everyone to come and be with us as we enjoy fellowship together.

Sister Rhonda Snyder, Cor.

MODESTO, CALIFORNIA

We greet you in the name of our Lord, Who is worthy of our honor. It is with praise for Him that we inform you of the addition of members to the Pleasant Home Congregation. As we were reminded, "Except the Lord build the house, thy labor in vain that build it..." Psalm 127:1.

Denna Applegate and Brigett Daniels experienced baptism in January. Mike and Donna Wray and Dwight and Cynthia Winger were received into membership on previous baptisms.

Please feel welcome to attend our Spring Lovefeast services April 25 and 26, 1987, or any of our regularly scheduled meetings. We look forward to seeing many of you at the Annual Conference, Lord willing.

Sister Edith Moss, Cor.

PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Plevna Congregation plans Pre-Easter Services April 15 through 19. Bro. Terry Gunderman of Goshen, Indiana will be the speaker.

There will be services nightly with Lovefeast services Saturday afternoon and that evening at 7 P.M. Services as usual on Sunday.

We invite all who can to come and enjoy these meetings with us.

Sister Verda Lorenz, Cor.

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Bethel Congregation held a council meeting, February 28. Once again the voice of the church was taken to elect two ministers. After scripture reading and prayer, these lots fell to Bro. Scott Bross and Bro. Kenneth Wilkerson.

May we give these young ministers our support with love and prayers.

Romans 10:14-15, "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

Sister Fern Kegerreis, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR APRIL 1987

April 5 - The Root and the Branches - Romans 11:16-36.

1. What is the root, and who is Paul referring to?
2. Why were the natural branches broken off? Who are the wild branches?

April 12 - Transformation - Romans 12:1-21.

1. What is transformation and how are we transformed into the new creature?
2. What do we as Christians present to God?

April 19 - Easter (Resurrection) - Mark 16:1-20.

1. Why is Christ's Resurrection so important?
2. What is meant by Christ being the first fruits of them that sleep?

April 26 - Rulers Ordained of God - Romans 13:1-14.

1. Why is it important that we obey the magistrates and rulers?
2. What part does love have in the fulfilling of the law?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR APRIL 1987

April 5 - Spiritual Blindness - Isaiah 59:1-10, Matt. 6:22-24, II Cor. 4:3-6, Eph. 4:7-24.

1. What is meant by spiritual blindness? How serious is it?
2. How do we receive spiritual vision? What doctor do we need to come to?

April 12 - Raising of Lazarus - John 11:1-45.

1. What words did Martha and Mary say when Jesus came to them?
2. What effect had the miracle on those standing there?

April 19 - The Resurrection - Luke 24:1-31.

1. What did the women find when they came to the tomb?
2. What effect did this truth have on all who were there and saw it?

April 26 - Charity - I Cor. 13, I Peter 4:1-10.

1. What prompted the Lord to send His Son to earth?
2. What is the greatest thing in the world and why is it so great?

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 7

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

TREASURE

Precious Bible! what a treasure Does the Word of God afford;
All I want for life or pleasure, Food and med'cine, shield and sword;
Let the world account me poor; Having this, I need no more;
Let the world account me poor; Having this, I need no more.

Food to which the world's a stranger, Here my hungry soul enjoys;
Of excess there is no danger Though it fills, it never cloy;
On a dying Christ I feed, He is meat and drink indeed;
On a dying Christ I feed, He is meat and drink indeed.

When my faith is faint and sickly, Or when Satan wounds my mind;
Cordials to revive me quickly, Healing med'cines here I find;
To the promises I flee, Each affords a remedy;
To the promises I flee, Each affords a remedy.

In the hour of dark temptation, Satan cannot make my yield;
For the word of consolation Is to me a mighty shield;
While the scripture-truths are sure, From his malice I'm secure;
While the scripture-truths are sure, From his malice I'm secure.

- John Newton

STARVING

We hear much about the homeless and starving in this world. Although we live in comparatively luxurious surroundings, many in the world are starving. There are many reasons for this condition. Some are connected with political and economic systems that fail to provide for their subjects. Some hunger is due to personal lack of initiative or ability.. A few may hunger through no fault of their own.

Whatever reason has brought about this condition, it remains that some, even in our own land, do go hungry. More in our land go hungry, through no lack of food, but through a lack of wholesome food. Many have enough food as far as quantity is concerned but they eat food that is not nutritious. Junk food has become the diet of many. Although they seemingly have enough to eat, they are starving because that food is mainly sugar, salt and fat. These foods give only empty calories not real nutrition for the body.

People are not only physically hungry but also many are Spiritually starving. Some are hungry because they have totally ignored the food needed by their souls. Others are hungry because they have been fed upon Spiritual junk food.

Some through personal choice and others because of restrictions placed upon them do not feed upon the Word of God. In our own land a person, if he would choose to, could have a Bible to read and study. Often they are even free. So there is little excuse for a lack of Spiritual food except by personal choice.

As there is opportunity to have Spiritual food, there is also the danger of getting Spiritual junk food, instead of that which is

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wholesome. There is much taught, that is unBiblical and un-Christian, although given in the name of true Bible food. Many have failed to receive the Word of God as God's standard for their lives. To them it is a book of history and past morals but not a book that applies to their present lives. Misinterpretations and private desires often rob the Word of power in their lives. They would rather please themselves than apply the Word to their lives. Many, even using the opportunity to attend Church, do not profit from it for they either consider it boring, or merely as a social meeting, rather than a source of food for the soul.

Food to be of any value to the body must be digested. Spiritual food must also be digested to be profitable. Sitting under the sound of the Gospel does not guarantee proper results from it. There must be not only a willingness to hear it as the Word of God speaking to the needs of the heart but also a willingness to do it. Digesting the Word of God comes through study.

The diet can become lopsided if there is not a balance of the various food groups. The Spiritual diet can become lopsided if there is not a variety of Spiritual food. One subject or one type of preaching will cause an unbalanced view and will be unhealthy. There are many types of food found within the Word of God and each one is necessary for a well-balanced Spiritual diet.

Many today are ever trying to lose weight. They are prone to follow many ill-advised diets that can be dangerous. Many in their Spiritual diets also follow after fads, following first one teacher, then another. They may become discouraged, when their particular fad passes, and resist all Spiritual food. There is a great need for a Spiritual diet that is sound and well rounded. It needs to be time tested and true.

There is a great need for a proper Spiritual diet while on this earth. There is a Heavenly diet prepared for those who have a place in that Eternal City. The Lord will come forth Himself to serve the Saints over there. He will not only welcome us to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb but He will continue to feed us and to give us drink throughout Eternity. If there is a need for Spiritual food in that Perfect Place then surely we have a great need for Spiritual food while we are in this imperfect world.

Famine, pestilence and other conditions come upon the earth to cause a shortage of food. When this happens people die or suffer from malnutrition. Today there is a Spiritual famine in the land, although there is no good reason for it. People do not choose to go hungry or starve to death but they will starve themselves Spiritually. The consequences of this starvation are far more serious than physical starvation.

While many are starving, not for lack of food, but for a lack of good food, are you getting a balanced diet? Are you living on the Word of God and growing thereby? Are you staying away from Spiritual junk food? If so, happy eating and happy growing.

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Limiting God"

One of the greatest tragedies of our time is that many Christians are limiting God in their lives. Of course past history gives us illustrations of others who have done the same. The Children of Israel limited God. In Psalms 78 we read, "... Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel." These people, of their own free will, shut God up in a wilderness. They pushed Him into a little corner. They deliberately chose to limit Him in their lives.

They limited what God could do FOR them and finally they limited what God could do THROUGH them. What could have been accomplished in their journey in a matter of days took forty years. What should have been a forward movement... became a failure. They lost their vision of the Promised Land and were CONTENT with a low standard of spiritual life. They got to the point where they accepted dissatisfaction, disappointment and disaster as a way of life. Disobedience became an accepted norm. GOD WAS LIMITED.

God absolutely wanted to take these people into Canaan land and free them from bondage and suffering but they limited Him.

How typical this situation is in our lives today. Through our disobedience and disregard of God's instruction, we lose the wonderful blessings He has in store for us and we limit Him. Of course, when we limit Him, we limit ourselves. The Jews possessed nothing... yet everything was theirs. The moment they left Egypt, God would give them everything. All they had to do was to possess their possessions. They wouldn't claim their blessings and many times we won't either. We choose not to experience all Christ has for us.

We have been redeemed from Egypt, from the world which held us in the bondage of sin. We have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb... Christ our sacrifice. Therefore, if we are in Christ we should be a new creature; old things should be passed away and all things should be new. (II Cor. 5:17) If we have limited God in our lives, we are not fully the new creature He desires for us to be. We are stuck in the wilderness. Wandering is the word that character-

izes a wilderness and just as the children of Israel wandered around in circles, so many people are doing that spiritually today. We are showing well externally... our flowers and leaves are shiny... but we are bearing no fruit. Why? We have limited God. We have accepted of the Gift... Jesus; we have believed in His Word... but we seem to be going nowhere. We are talking the talk and not fully walking the walk. "God brought us out so He could bring us in." IN CHRIST WE ARE NEVER LIMITED. With Him, problems, fear, anxiety and frustrations melt away. You can expose your problems to Him and He WILL perform. That is the real practical expression of the new life.

We will see God in His fullness when we have our priorities right. If God is limited in what He can do, then He will also be limited in what He can do THROUGH us. This was true of the Israelites. God could have done so much more if they would have been cooperative. They would not only have been greatly blessed but they themselves would have been a great blessing to others. Likewise, if we reflect the joyous blessing of Christ's presence, He will in turn bless others through us. His work will be unhindered because of our positive enjoyment of Him.

The children of Ephraim turned back in the day of battle (Ps. 78). They had talked, planned, prepared and yet, when the critical moment came, they turned back. They had all gotten God's guarantees and they were carrying their bows but they limited what God could do through them. Their bows were slack (deceitful). A limp bow string shoots a totally ineffective arrow. There is no power there. It also gives no purpose to the bow nor does it give pleasure. The Scriptures indicate many of us are like a slack bow. We could be very effective in the hands of God if we were not so weak and slack. Our prayer life is slack... our Bible study is slack... our life is backsliding and that comes from "slack-abiding."

If you dare to really believe in God's promises, your life will stand out like a jewel amid the dust of defeat. A boxer... one who has been defeated... is sometimes called a horizontal boxer... because he is flat on his back. Equate this to defeated, horizontal Christians. God's Word calls for us to STAND. Our faith and obedience must be vertical, not horizontal. Rather than a conqueror... we become the conquered. The attitude that I have been baptized now and I am home free is dangerous and limits God. It is putting on the armour for the battle and sitting down in a field of flowers. Our Christian battle must be fought with conscious deliberation. It is then that we will see victory.

Is your school life horrible? Business a shambles? Health a wreck? Church life a burden? God cares and He will help you if

you do not limit Him and paralyze His efficacy. Turn from failure through TOTAL TRUST in Christ and His power. He desires that you prove Him. He desires to infuse you with inner strength. DON'T LIMIT THE LIMITLESS... YOUR GOD.

Brother Len Wertz

I SHOULD, OR I WILL?

The minister walked slowly to the back of the church, feeling as though he'd just completed a full day's work. Funny how it seemed to drain him of all his strength, speaking God's words to the people. Only a few moments earlier, he'd been standing before the congregation, delivering a powerful, God-given message. With the Spirit of God resting mightily upon him, he had poured out his whole heart to the people who sat before him. "Oh, Lord," he cried in his spirit, "please let each person take Your words into his heart and live them!" But now, as the people came to greet him with words like, "Nice sermon," "Enjoyed your message," "Good thoughts. We should do that more," the minister's heart grew heavy with sadness. His eyes were moist as he listened to the people now laughing and chatting about the weather, the ballgame, fishing, and sewing. "Oh, Father, have they so soon forgotten? Or did they hear?" Just then, the minister felt a light touch on his shoulder. He turned to encounter a tall man looking at him with serious eyes. The man lowered his head and said humbly, "God convicted my heart this morning. I have been saying, 'I should' too much lately. With His help, I am going to start today, and do what He told me I must do." A light came over the minister's face and he breathed, "Praise God!"

How many times do you or I say, "I should pray more," "I should study the Bible more," "I should visit people more," and so forth? I have to seriously wonder if God gets weary of all our "I shoulds." I believe He would be much happier with "I will," and then see us act upon that statement.

Listen to this: "I will praise Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all Thy marvellous works. I will be glad and rejoice in Thee: I will sing praise to Thy Name, O Thou most High." (Psalm 9:1-2) Now read it again and put the word "should" in place of the word "will." If David would have said, "I should praise Thee, O Lord... I should sing praises to Thy Name," it wouldn't be much of a witness or encouragement to us, would it? There is an unspoken word that goes along with the word "should." I SHOULD... BUT. Let's be honest with ourselves now. In Bible Study we say, "Yes, we really should do that more." But do we do it? THAT'S what

matters to God! God wants a resounding, "WE WILL!"

There are many "I will" verses in the Bible. Why not take some time now and look them up? Read them out loud, and then DO what you said! It's exciting!

"I will bless the Lord..." (Psalm 16:7)

"I will love Thee, O Lord..." (Psalm 18:1)

"I will call upon the Lord..." (Psalm 18:3)

"I will declare Thy Name..." (Psalm 22:22) (A good one for church growth!)

"I will extol Thee, O Lord..." (Psalm 30:1)

How many more "I will" verses can you find?

Let's THINK about what we say. "I should" isn't good enough for God. He wants to hear a definite "I WILL!" and then see us do it. With His help, we can!

WILL YOU?

Sister Julie Litfin
Quinter, KS

JUST ONE

"In years past, the chemical value of the human body was about 98¢ worth of iron, calcium and other minerals. Now, in this nuclear age, the atoms in the body constitute a potential energy source of more than eleven million kilowatt hours per pound. This makes us worth approximately \$85.5 billion apiece." (Anon.)

As you can see, we're not worth much from a chemist's point of view, but as a potential source of atomic energy, the value of one person is multiplied by many thousands of dollars. Being told we are worth only 98¢ is enough to give us an inferiority complex. Yet, we can comprehend that amount much better than the \$85.5 billion. But no matter what we are worth in dollars and cents, we are worth far more to God, our Creator.

God doesn't measure our value in dollars and cents, but Jesus did ask us a question to put our value in perspective. "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Matt. 16:26. Mankind judges our worth by what we are in this world, but God is concerned about eternal values. Compared to this world which is worth many billions of dollars (by man's standards), one soul — just one — is worth more than all that.

Just one! That's you and that's me. Each of us is worth more than whatever the world is worth. Jesus said, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever

believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. God's love is manifested to us in a one-to-one relationship. "Whosoever" is just one — you, me, whoever will believe.

Jesus considered us worth dying for. Surely we should consider Him worth living for. Jesus said, "There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." Luke 15:10. We know Jesus died so all could be saved, but the joy is just as great over one as over many. We have a very personal relationship to our Savior, and He cherishes that closeness. So should we.

Jesus said, "Every one that asketh receiveth." (Matt. 7:8). There's more to this verse, but the thought is the seeking individual. Every one — each person, every person — who asks will receive. It doesn't have to be a group effort to obtain God's care. Each one will receive what? The good things of God — His mercy, His care, His love. If we are not receiving from God, the problem lies with us, not with Him. God will give if we will just ask.

"For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away." I Peter 1:24. No matter what we are in this life, no matter what we have, someday it will all pass away, just like withered-up grass. We will pass out of this life, just one at a time. Our possessions won't matter, but how we have lived will matter. We will face God and give an account, one at a time. If we have pleased God in this life, we will be rewarded. If not, we must suffer the consequences, but whatever Eternity holds, we face it individually.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." Rom. 1:16. There is just one Savior, not several, and there is just one gospel — His. Christ's saving power is granted to each one who believes. The whole community may believe and that's good, but until you personally believe, you can't be saved. The Apostle Paul was not ashamed of Jesus or His Gospel; are you?

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Rom. 5:8. It took just one to save us — that one is Christ. It takes one act of faith to establish that personal bond between us and Christ. It takes just one heart fully committed to Christ to serve Him acceptably. It's true that some things require a group effort, but we are still separate units. Individually, we live, and serve. Christ died for you. Will you receive Him into your heart and serve Him?

Sister Eileen Broadwater

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT FASTING

Emmanuel, who lives in Nigeria, had some questions about fasting. Following are his questions, along with the answers.

1. What is fasting? Fasting is to go without food. It is when someone decides to give up eating food for a certain period of time.

2. Why fast? In the spiritual sense, we fast when we have a burden or special concern on our heart (Matthew 17:21). That is, when we have a very deep concern about someone or something, and feel the need for a special time with the Lord (Acts 13:2). Some people fast on a regular basis (such as once a week), as a part of their regular spiritual exercise. (See Acts 10:30).

3. How long should one fast? Fasting can range from missing one meal, to one day, three days, a week, or even longer. I would suggest not fasting for extended periods of time unless you see a doctor and he says it's okay. If a person has any health problems at all, he or she should consult a physician before fasting. I Corinthians 7:5 suggests fasting for shorter periods of time.

4. How to start a fast? You prepare your heart by reading the Bible and praying, communing with God. Then DO NOT EAT at the time you normally would eat.

5. What to do during a fast? Prayer and fasting go together. At the time you normally would be eating, pray about the issue over which you are fasting. Every time you get hunger pains, let this be a signal or reminder to pray. You will go about your regular duties of life, except you will not eat. The people around you will not necessarily know you are on a fast (Matthew 6:16-18).

6. What to expect during fasting? Expect the Devil to attack you. We read of one time when Jesus fasted and how the Devil attacked Him (Matthew 4:1-20). You will get hungry and your stomach will not feel good. Do not worry! You may even feel like being in a bad mood, and want to be mean to people around you. You may feel that because you are doing without food, you have a right to be short-tempered. But do not yield to these false thoughts and moods! Do not let Satan make you angry because you are giving up food! Sometimes you will see immediate answers to your prayer and sometimes you will not. Do not despair. God hears you! He promises, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee." (Jeremiah 33:3)

7. How to break the fast? Eat light foods that are easy to digest. Go slowly, and soon you'll be eating as normal.

8. Who should fast? Any Christian who has a sincere desire for a deeper, closer walk with God should consider fasting. Sometimes when you have a bad problem, you will not feel like eating. If

someone you love is very sick, you might want to pray and fast for them. I especially recommend prayer and fasting for spiritual problems, and when making decisions.

9. Who should not fast? Pregnant women and nursing mothers should NOT fast. They and their children need all the nutrition they can get! Also, older people, those who are weaker, or sickly people who are not in the best of health should not fast. If you suspect any health problem whatsoever, consult a physician before attempting to fast.

10. Can I drink water when I fast? Yes, you can and should drink water during fasting. If you go too long without water, you could die. And the purpose of fasting is to draw closer to God, and to further serve Him, not to die!

Fasting is a subject that is not too popular in our age of self-gratification. But Jesus says, "But thou, WHEN thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face." (Matthew 6:17) Fasting should be given some place in our Christian experience. Let us each give serious consideration to this seldom-discussed subject.

Brother Robert Lehigh

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

Baptism, the Purpose

J. H. Moore

Baptism is a New Testament institution for all penitent believers seeking salvation. It is an act of obedience, through which one enters Christ, for Paul says that "so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death." (Rom. 6:3) This makes it clear that the penitent believer gets into Christ by being baptized into him. The same principle is affirmed in Gal. 3:27, where we read: "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

From this we may learn that baptism is the visible, initiatory rite of the church. It is not the sign of the initiation but the initiation ceremony itself. It is not the outward sign of an inward initiation, but the visible act of the initiation. In fact, it is the outward part of the initiation process. In this process there is an outward as well as an inward part, and baptism has been made the outward part. It is not an outward sign that the inward change of being born again has already taken place, but it is the external part of the act. Baptism may be an evidence of the inward change, made necessary for an entrance into the kingdom, but can not be a sign of an entrance that has already taken place. The work of grace in the

heart, — faith, repentance, confession, regeneration and baptism — may be regarded as parts of the process that makes one a new creature in Christ Jesus. They are parts of the process that consummates, true conversion. In this process baptism is the visible part, and belongs to the process, as much so as faith or repentance. We have no more right to eliminate baptism than we have to exclude any other part of the divine process.

Baptism is not only the divinely-appointed initiatory rite of the church, but Peter, when instructing the penitent believers on the Day of Pentecost, gave them to understand that the rite, when preceded by faith and repentance, is “for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38). Saul, having shown evidence of faith and repentance, was told by Ananias to “arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins.” (Acts 22:16) These two citations show clearly that the initiatory rite figured in the remission of sins, not because there is merit in the service, but because God demands it, and promises a blessing on condition of its performance.

SIXTY YEARS AGO

April 1, 1927

REST

L. W. Beery

It is a very evident fact there is something wonderfully lacking in the human race in this day and age. There is a continual striving and seeking after something that will give them lasting satisfaction. Men are rushing to and fro over this whole earth seeking something they seem not able to find, a wonderful unrest.

It seems only natural to me that it should be so. Human society is made up of families. Father, mother and the children. As the children grow up they usually go out into the world to make their own living. Often their work or calling takes them many miles from home. It seems that no matter how far the distance or what we are doing, there is always a desire to go back to the old home, a kind of home sickness. We desire to go home to father and mother and strengthen the ties of love and what a sense of security and rest it gives us when we go back and meet loved ones again. Yes, many are the tears of joy that are shed on such occasions.

So it is in the spiritual realm. This never dying soul of ours comes from our Father in heaven, therefore the home of the soul is with God. When we consider the sinful condition in which we are living is it any wonder that man should be in such unrest. The soul desires to go home to the Father that it might be at rest.

As long as the soul is in this body of flesh it cannot go to the Father, but he has made it possible that we might have this rest while we yet live in this world. (Matt. 11:28-30) Jesus says, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me for I am meek and lowly of heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Jesus came to this earth that we might have rest; yet how few really accept and enjoy it.

Since it is a fact that we can have this rest, there must be some way, some door, by which we can enter it. (John 10:9) "I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and go out, and shall find pasture."

(John 6:35) Jesus said unto them, "I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall not hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." (Matt. 16:24) "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, if any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."

'Tis through Jesus that we enter this rest. He is the door, the way, and he alone. We can come to him, yielding ourselves unto him, and partake of the spiritual bread and water, and enjoy rest indeed; rest of the soul. There must be a self denial, a yielded life to enjoy this rest.

This does not mean that we will not have to work and strive against the evil one, as long as we are on this earth we will have trials, temptations and sorrows but we can enjoy this rest of the soul through it all.

There are some things about this rest that to me are very interesting. It is free and to all people. "Freely ye received freely give without money and without price." We cannot buy our way in with all the money in the world, yet we can have it for the asking. "whatsoever will, let him take of the water of life freely." The great, the small, the white, the black, the rich, the poor and all have to accept it on the same plane.

It is an abiding rest. When we have Jesus he abides with us. He is with us in the morning, at the noontide or at the midnight hour. He is with us in joy, and best of all, he is with us in sorrow. When troubles and trials come upon us and it seems we are about to be overcome; if we come to our closet in prayer and cast our cares upon Him who knows all, He comforts, cheers and delivers us. What a privilege this is to us.

We find this rest is everlasting and eternal. In this world we have time. We measure it by hours, weeks, years. There is a limit to time. Sometime maybe soon, time will cease, then will be eternity which we cannot measure. It goes on and on forever. If we have

this rest within us we need not fear as long as time shall last and when eternity dawns upon us we will be prepared for it. Jesus is calling, "Come unto me and I will give you rest." Freely an abiding, everlasting and eternal rest that cannot be taken from us. A wonderful rest, a blessed rest.

There are some things this rest gives us that the world knows nothing of nor experiences. It gives us joy, peace and happiness. Oh, yes, there are things in this life that give us these for a season; but it does not last. Soon they lose their charm and fade away. Not so with what Jesus gives us, it is everlasting. Lasting joy, sweet peace the gift of God's love and happiness that cannot be expressed.

It also gives us satisfaction. We know how to satisfy our physical appetite. If we are hungry, we sit down to a well prepared meal and eat till we are filled. Our body seems satisfied. So it is with our spirits. If we come to Jesus and partake of the spiritual bread and water, he fills us and gives us satisfaction indeed. Jesus satisfies the soul.

Not only that, it gives us contentment. In our daily lives we meet people from all walks of life and how many do we find contented? Most of them are striving for a little more money, a finer home or a high worldly position. You will find contentment only in the hearts of those who are really followers of the meek and lowly Jesus. The beggar in his rags or the poor widow can be contented.

Jesus is calling, come unto me and I will give you rest. Rest unto your soul. Not so with the wicked. (Isa. 57:20-21) "But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked." In the light of this scripture is it any wonder there is so much unrest and dissatisfaction in this world when wickedness is so rampant.

What a privilege the Christian has, to let his light shine in this age. Weary traveler Jesus is calling, "come unto me, and I will give you rest." Rest unto your soul. If you are out on life's troubled sea tossed to and fro by doubts, fears and uncertainties, come, anchor your soul in the haven of rest and rest and abide in Jesus now and evermore.



Good sermons need not be long, and bad ones ought not to be.

OBITUARY**MARGARET MARKS**

Sister Margaret E. (Orner) Marks, wife of Joseph F. Marks passed away March 17, 1987 at the age of 73 years, 1 month and 2 days. She is survived by her husband, two sons, Lester C. Marks, Mountville, Pennsylvania, Clarence E. Marks, York, Pennsylvania and one daughter, Evelyn E. Eberly, Lancaster, Pennsylvania; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; two brothers, James Orner, Wilmington, Delaware and George Orner, Sunbury, Pennsylvania.

She was a member of the Shrewsbury Dunkard Brethren Church for fifty-six years.

She had been in ill health for many years. Five years ago she had a hard stroke that left her paralyzed to the extent that she could never walk again.

She was a loving mother in the home. Through her loving and friendly way of life she had many friends. She will be missed here. We believe the Lord knows best.

Funeral services were held at the Shrewsbury Dunkard Brethren Church conducted by Elders Jacob Ness, David Ebling and James Kegerreis. Burial was in the adjoining cemetery.

A HOME

In the Christian home in glory
There remains a land of rest
There is rest for the weary
And there is rest for you.

Jesus blessed rock of ages
I will hide my self in thee
In the rifted rock I am resting
And safely sheltered I hide.

Now I am resting sweetly resting
In the cleft once made for me,
In the promised home in glory
In the land of blissful rest.
Rest for all who come to Jesus
Yes, rest for you and me.

We thank and appreciate the many prayers, words of comfort and cards we received during her long illness and the time she was being prepared for burial.

The family

NEWS ITEMS**GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI**

The Lord willing, we, the Grandview Congregation, are planning our Lovefeast for April 25. There will be services all day on Saturday with Communion in the evening. We plan to have services on Sunday morning and afternoon also. We would love to have those who are able, to come worship with us.

Sister Mary Lou Kasza, Cor.

WEST FULTON, OHIO

The Lord willing, the West Fulton Congregation is looking forward to their Lovefeast, May 16 and 17. We invite everyone to come and worship with us. Services will begin at 11:00 a.m. Saturday. Pray that the Lord's work will be carried out.

Sister Dianne Heisey, Cor.

HE MAKETH NO MISTAKE

My Father's way may twist and turn,
My heart may throb and ache,
But in my soul I'm glad I know,
He maketh no mistake.

My cherished plans may go astray,
My hopes may fade away,
But still I'll trust my Lord to lead
For He doth know the way.

Tho' night be dark and it may seem
That day will never break;
I'll pin my faith, my all in Him,
He maketh no mistake.

There's so much now I cannot see,
My eyesight's far too dim;
But come what may I'll simply trust
And leave it all to Him.

For BY and BY the mist WILL lift
And plain it all He'll make.
Through all the way tho' dark to me,
He made not one mistake.

- A. M. Overton

Selected by Sister Almeda Strayer

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXV

APRIL 15, 1987


NO. 8

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

IF YOU LOVE ME



If you love, as my disciples,
You will let your love appear;
You will keep my words and precepts,
And will not deny me here.

You will shun all sin and evil,
And will learn to watch and pray;
You will take the cross I give you,
And will bear it all the way.

You will love and help each other,
And will walk in truth and light;
You will look to me in trouble,
And will know that all is right.

You will be my true disciples,
And will dwell in peace and love;
You will watch and be in waiting,
Till I call you home above.

- E. A. Barnes

ACTIVE LOVE

Love is usually thought of as an undefinable emotion. There is no simple way to describe just what love is. Even though we have each experienced it, both by giving and receiving it, we still can not accurately describe it. We know love when we experience it.

Love is more than mere words. Words can express love but words can also deceive and not express the heart's true feelings. The flowery words of love may be spoken to deceive for material gain or to fulfill the body's lust.

Love that is active is more than an emotion. It is more than words, either true or untrue. Active love is a giving, doing love that shows love more than words. The Bible speaks many times about the love of God but within the Bible there are more concrete examples of His Love. God did not merely say that He loved us, He did something about it.

What God did to express His love for us is the greatest love story this world has ever known. His love impelled Him to empty Heaven's treasure of the Pearl of Great Value. He gave His only begotten Son.

He not only sent Him to earth to live among men for a short time, He actually gave Him as a sacrifice for men's sins. Not only did Jesus completely identify with men by taking upon Himself the form of man but He humbled Himself so completely that He suffered death — the most agonizing death possible. His death was not because of any crime or sin that He had committed. He suffered death as the perfect sacrifice for their sins. They did not deserve such a sacrifice but because of His love it was made.

THE BIBLE MONITOR**APRIL 15, 1987**

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After He died and was buried, the tomb could not hold Him. The love of God would not allow Him to leave Jesus in the grave. While in the grave, it would seem that Satan and death could conquer Him and thus thwart His sacrifice for our sins. But when that morning dawned above that empty grave, it was known that He was all powerful. He conquered sin, death and the devil. His love for us was active. He did what love demanded.

How active is our love for Him? Is it expressed only in words? Just as His love was expressed in the very deeds of His giving so our love for Him should be expressed in our activity for Him. Jesus spoke how it might be shown. Just before the agonizing hour in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus told His followers that there was a test for their active love. "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me." John 14:21a. "If a man love me, he will keep my words." John 14:23b. "He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me." John 14:24. These are not idle words.

We have no excuse for not doing His commandments. We know them for the Bible is readily available to us. We can carry out His commands without governmental persecution. We can actively demonstrate our supposed love for Him by our obedience. Jesus' words are established as being the words of the Father as well.

There are any number of commandments recorded within the Bible so we may demonstrate our love for Him. By doing these commands, He has even more blessings for us when we do them. We receive more than the effort we have invested, for we cannot out give God.

One of the commandments given by Jesus that demands our active involvement is baptism, which is a part of the plan of salvation. Without it we can not actively show our love, for it brings us next to the love of God. Baptism is an action that pictures the active love of God. Baptism is a death, burial and resurrection. We are baptized in the likeness of His death — face forward. We are buried in the water — completely covered by it. We are resurrected as we come forth from what could well have been a watery grave. The old man of sin is dead and the new man, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, is alive. This is a picture of God's active love toward us and our active love toward Him.

At this resurrection season it is well for us to realize that great love God has actively bestowed upon us. It is a good time for us to consider how we might actively show our love for Him. First we must not neglect His love. We must accept it or else it will do us no good and what was designed for our good will be turned into

judgment. Having accepted His love, let us actively show that love in keeping His commandments and in doing good for our fellow man. Let our love be active, more than mere words. Are you an active lover?

IT WAS FOR ME

"O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt." Matt. 26:39. The time had come! Jesus had completed His ministry and now He was facing the Cross. The anguish was intense, the sorrow overwhelming. Jesus told His disciples, "My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death." (v. 38) Because of His agony, "His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground." Luke 22:44. This agony, this suffering was for me.

Jesus' cup of suffering is beyond our comprehension. Three times He asked the Father to remove this cup; three times He said, "Not as I will, but as thou wilt." This too was for me. Jesus didn't suffer because of something He had done. It was entirely because of, and for, mankind — for you and me, for us in our sins. Jesus endured this suffering because He wanted to do His Father's will and because He loved every person.

While Jesus prayed in agony in the Garden, His disciples slept. Immediately after Jesus finished praying, the group came to arrest Him. "Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled." Matt. 26:56. Not a one of these men who'd been Jesus' companions for about three years stayed close by. It is understandable that they were afraid, but it seems that when Jesus needed their support the most, they let Him down. I wonder — do I let Him down, too?

"Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands, saying, Prophecy unto us, thou Christ, Who is he that smote thee?" Matt. 26:67-68. No one likes to be slapped or spit on, or made fun of. Yet, they did this to Jesus and He endured it without resisting. It was for me that He suffered like a common criminal. Jesus wanted me to have the opportunity to be saved, and no matter how terrible it was, He endured all the abuse preceding the crucifixion — for me.

It is easy to keep still when we're guilty, but very difficult when we're not. Jesus was accused before Pilate, but answered nothing in His own defense, even though He was not guilty of any wrong doing. Jesus acknowledged that He was King of the Jews, but He did not ask to be set free. The Cross was waiting, and Jesus had committed Himself to dying on that Cross. For whom? It was for me, it was for you.

Jesus, the Son of God, was given a scarlet robe, a crown of thorns, and a reed in His right hand. The soldiers even bowed before Him, but it was all just to make fun of Jesus. They took great delight in abusing Jesus, as though He deserved it. The truth is, you and I deserve to suffer for our sins, but Jesus suffered so we wouldn't have to. All the agony, all the shame was heaped on Jesus, and He willingly bore it for us.

The mockery and the suffering intensified while Jesus was on the Cross. The people made fun of Him, the physical pain was beyond description, but I believe the greatest agony came in bearing our sins. Jesus was without sin, but He endured the shame of ours. He knew it was the only way we could be set free from sin's power. Jesus cried out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" There apparently was some time when God turned away from Jesus, because of our sins. This too He endured — for me.

Jesus' sole purpose in coming to this earth was to make salvation possible. His work was finished when He voluntarily yielded up His spirit. Life then left the physical body which He had here on earth. Three days later, that body received new life and Jesus came forth from the grave, the victor over all. This too was for me. If Jesus had not risen, then no human being ever would either, but He did, and we will!

After the Resurrection, Jesus spent a short time here on earth. He reassured His followers and completed the instructions for the work they were to do. When all things were ready, Jesus left them and returned to Heaven, and "sat on the right hand of God." Why? Again, it was for me. Jesus is there interceding for me. He knows my limitations and He knows what it's like to be tempted. He has compassion on me in my weakness.

This article has only touched the surface of the Crucifixion and all related events. It is stated in a personal way because our relationship with Jesus is very personal. What He did for me, He did also for you. His love, His mercy, His care is very personally yours — if you want it. Do you?

Sister Eileen Broadwater

SIXTY YEARS AGO

April 15, 1927

THE RESURRECTION

B. E. Kesler

Of all the "exceeding great and precious promises" to God's children as revealed in the scriptures, there is none more com-

forting and encouraging than the promise of eternal life through the resurrection of the body.

Of all the mischievous teachings of evolution none is more disheartening to the faithful children of God than the indirect denial of the resurrection of the body and eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Viewing the subject from every angle in which the finite mind is capable of thinking we are unable to account for a resurrection of our bodies. True, from what we know annual and perennial plants we reason on the probability, the plausibility and the reasonableness of a resurrection. But who of us has seen new life developed or reestablished in the bodies of our dead, or seen new life bursting from the graves from those who sleep in them? Who of our loved ones has returned from the tomb wherein we placed them to prove the resurrection? Not one. Whence then our faith and hope of a resurrection? Whence this "lively hope whereunto we have been begotten again?" Answer: the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. But whence our knowledge of his resurrection? Answer: God's Word. When evolution denies the virgin birth of Christ, it indirectly denies his resignation, and, denying his resurrection, it indirectly denies a resurrection to us.

So that our faith and hope in a resurrection and immortal life through Christ Jesus our Lord is based on the specific statement of the scriptures.

None of our friends has assured us on any authority other than the scriptures that without the resurrection all is vain, but Saint Paul by divine inspiration tells us "if Christ be not raised" our faith, our hope, our all is vain. So that when our faith in the truthfulness of God's word is gone through evolution on any other species of infidelity, for it is infidelity, our hope in a resurrection with all the consequent joy and happiness of the future life is gone. But "thanks be to God" who has given us an abiding and confiding faith, an overcoming faith through an overcoming and a victorious Christ "who was raised up from the dead by the glory of God the Father, whereof he has given assurance to all men" if they would receive it, that in God's own time he will raise them up likewise, to a life of eternal felicity if found worthy.

God's people in all the ages past have hoped in a future life, which can be possible only through the resurrection. Job inquired, "if a man die shall he live again"? Then he answers, "I know that my Redeemer liveth", and Job died in full assurance of a future life and that in the last days he should "see him face to face."

David likewise believed in the future state, a future life. His departed son could not "return" to him but he could "go to the

child", said he.

And so on down through the ages holy men of God believed in a future life, a belief and a life made possible by the God who made us and the resurrection of his own Son from the dead. This great truth along with other of God's will being revealed to them through his holy prophets.

"MY JESUS, CRUCIFIED"

"I can't believe that Jesus lives",
Said Thomas to the others.
"I had hoped that He would be our King,
And we could live as brothers."

"You say He lives and breathes again
And walks around like me.
I saw them pierce His tender side
Upon Mount Calvary."

"No, I will not believe, unless -
My fingers in the nail prints place
And thrust my hand into His side,
And see Him face to face."

Jesus appears so suddenly
And calls to Thomas as he gazed
Upon the nail prints - the pierced side;
He trembles and he is amazed.

"Place your fingers in the prints -
Thrust your hand into my side -
Be not faithless, but believe;
Evermore with Me abide."

Thomas cried out, "My Lord, my God!
And may it ever be -
That you, my God, will be alive
Throughout eternity."

And so it is with us today
As we live side by side,
By faith we see whom Thomas saw,
My Jesus, crucified."

- Brother Rudy Cover

GIVING

Matthew 6:1-4

There is a natural disposition within men to pay tribute, vows or burn incense to a god to be worshipped. Even the heathen, who know not the true God, exercise the impulse to give fruits, cattle, grain. Even children are sacrificed to appease their god. I say it is a universal impulse within humanity to give to some one we love. It is a tradition or instinct that is deep rooted in the human family. It is greatly increased at the celebrating of the birth of our Lord. I have failed to find a command to justify the commercial storm of buying, selling and giving. I am not saying not to give as tokens of affection to our loved ones — there is, too, a need to reach the unfortunate, sick, homeless, and to brighten the lives of the discouraged.

"Gratitude" like the word, "Trinity" is not found in the Bible, yet the Sacred Scriptures contain many sentiments on both of these subjects. Gratitude is justly said to be the mother of most virtue, because that from one fountain so many riverlets arise: as that of reverence unto parents and masters, friendships, love for our country, and obedience to God.

What shall I render to my God? David said I will take the cup of salvation. I will pay my vows to God. Yes, we owe a life of service of love and gratitude and praise for His sacrifice for our redemption. He delivered us from the bondage of sin and everlasting punishment. Yes, we should rejoice and praise Him every day. "What doth the Lord require of thee (Deut. 10:12) but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul."

Jesus spoke strongly to the Scribes and Pharisees. They paid tithes of mint, anise and cummin and omitted the weightier matters of the law of judgment, mercy and faith. These you ought to have done and not leave the other undone.

Under the law one tenth was levied for the support of the priests. The Levites had no inheritance with the Israelites.

Jesus gave Himself out of His poverty that we might be made rich.

John 3:16. Jesus commended the poor widow who gave her all (about 2½ cents in our money). Further teachings tell us we should give as the Lord hath prospered us. The Macadonian Brethren first gave themselves then received the blessing.

We have the question of ownership. God's first command to Adam was to be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the

fowls of the air, and every living thing that moveth upon the earth. Gen. 1:28. Jesus speaking to His disciples said, "The kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods." Matt. 25:14. To one he gave five talents, another two and another one. Psalms 50:10. God declared the earth is His, the fullness thereof of the earth, cattle and a thousand hills are mine. If I were hungry I would not ask thee. We are only stewards of what we possess. We are responsible for what He has entrusted to us. Why do we spend our money for that which is not bread? A certain rich man had a steward: the same accused him of wasting his goods. He called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear of thee? Give account of thy stewardship for thou mayest no longer be steward.

There is a penalty for holding back that which rightfully belongs to God. An example, Acts 5:1-2, Ananias and Sapphira.

The doctrine of giving goes deeper in our lives than the giving of presents or a few dollars dropped in the collection basket. It means the giving of our all. "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." I Cor. 6:19-20. Present your bodies a living sacrifice. Rom. 12:1-2. Jesus became our sacrifice.

Some years ago a man went to California, when gold was discovered, to seek his fortune. He sent home some tokens of affection each month. After years his wife wrote him that she appreciated his offerings but the time has come that we want you.

God has given us His only Son because of His great love and to redeem us from the sin inherited from the garden and to purify unto Himself a peculiar people of good works. Titus 2:14. By accepting Jesus we are assured of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Other gifts bestowed upon us are: The Holy Spirit - James 4:6, Wisdom - James 1:5, Faith - Ephesians 2:8, Rain and fruitful seasons - Genesis 8:22, Wisdom to the wise - Daniel 2:21. Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift. II Corinthians 9:15.

We have some unfinished business from last year. We think and even reverence the last words of our loved ones. Among Jesus' last words to His disciples were, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel." I am concerned about the greatest unfinished business in the world. The most neglected. Why is it not finished? The importance of the task depends on the authority of the one assigning the task. It should be plain to anyone that He who said "upon this rock I will build my church" has a right to tell the Church what to do. What is our requirement for the work that is before us

the coming year, should Jesus tarry? Pray that our lives be rededicated upon the altar of sacrifice.

A man in Nebraska who owned a three thousand acre ranch, attended a revival, was convicted of sin and resolved to spend his life preaching the Gospel. He gave up his ranch entirely. The next day a neighbor who heard of his decision said, "Well, if George can give up his ranch for Christ, I can use my farm to support him." It is a solemn thought to be a Christian. It is laying our all upon the altar of sacrifice. Paul said, "... for I determine to know nothing but Christ and him crucified. That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; ...Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Phil. 3:10-14. Paul was a great missionary and a natural example of true evangelism.

Some time ago I stopped at a restaurant. I saw over in the back yard a barrel. A sign on it said "Ashes Only". Something struck me. A second look gave me the secret of true evangelism. As I thought upon these words, I realized they apply to every thing not vitally connected with soul giving. Christian, take these words with you this very hour. Write it across your dearest possession, across your home, automobile, your clothes, your check book, your wife, your children, your sweetheart, father, mother. Except ye forsake all, ye cannot be my disciple. This commandment we have from Him that He who loveth God loveth his brother also. I John 4:21.

Paul, the greatest missionary, wrote inspired letters while in prison with chains on his hands and suffering. Read II Cor. 11:23-28. Paul could see through tears, the joys of the greatest reward prepared for those who love God. The Christian way of life is a beautiful way. Though trials and discouragements may come, persecutions (all that live godly shall suffer persecutions) we know we are on the right road for it is uphill.

"But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad al^l with exceeding joy." I Pet. 4:13. When we reduce our desires, our sacrifice, our ALL to ashes we will receive the blessing here in this life and unspeakable joy in Heaven. Job suffered the agony in the flesh all reduced to ashes. God blest him, giving him twice as much as he had, and he lived 140 years in prosperity.

Let us dedicate our lives to His service. It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Brother L. A. Shumake

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Marriage.....

Marriage is a God-ordained institution and relationship that is second only to our relationship with the Lord Himself. For this reason and due to the fact that the marriage relationship is being attacked from every side, I feel Spirit-led to share thoughts on this important topic in the next few issues.

Marriage can be a relationship in which each person develops and enhances his or her own life and helps the partner to do the same; or it can be marked by disdained stagnation. Stagnation in marriage is a lot like a stagnant pool of water. It is bitter and makes for just a miserable coexistence or in extreme cases, dissolution of the marriage. Since neither of these should be Christian options, we look to God for help in this area.

For a marriage to develop to its full potential, the partners need to plan, accept and be flexible. They need to realize that the principles of dealing with people in the church and with those outside of the Body apply with even more emphasis in the marriage. The crisis in American family life today is well documented and I fear this crisis is finding its way into the conservative Christian family of believers. According to reliable research, seventy-six percent of all families are "in trouble." This trouble is emphatic in certain areas of marriage and the family. Items such as inattentive parents, substandard religious and spiritual foundations, materialism, financial pressure and divorce head up the problem list. Statistically and in order, the following reasons are identified as the greatest causes of marriage failure: Immaturity, selfishness, a lack of mutual interests and goals, third-party entanglements, personality conflicts, poor physical relationship adjustment, job pressures and the burden of children. The ultimate conclusion is that the church is losing its influence on family life... thus the trying conflicts.

I fear greatly when I see the lack of preparation and instruction of conservative youth in this area. If we are going to strengthen marriage and family life we are going to have to be knowledgeable of God's will for our lives in this institution.

We have to begin building the marriage with strong bricks of love (Agape first), cemented by the mortar of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Marriage must have COMPLETION (Gen. 2:18, 24) Men and women who complete each other are real friends. A friend is one with whom you feel comfortable, one who believes in you and who shares your concerns and hurts. It must have COMMUNICATION

(Phil. 2:1-4) Couples have a special opportunity to become a channel of God's healing grace. To speak words of encouragement and to support your spouse will fill this most crucial need.

Your marriage must have CONSOLATION. (Prov. 25:11) This most special of relationships gives you the opportunity to become a channel of God's healing grace. To really be happy is to understand this need for consolation in our spouses life.

The need for CREATION in marriage is given by God and is absolutely necessary for the perpetuation of the Church. I don't see it as an option... not to have children... unless God has not allowed you to have children because of physical or medical restrictions.

Marriage must have CORRELATION. (Eph. 4:15-16) The husband and wife relationship and the family life developed there should be a church in miniature so that they reflect to the people of the community what the larger Body of Christ is like.

Ultimately, your marriage must have CHRISTIANIZATION. (Josh. 24:15) This illustrates a home which is headed by Christ and one that shows the world what He can do in lives to perfect them and make them happy. This is the ultimate in evangelization.

These factors will determine whether a marriage is a "duet" or a "duet." At this point we must remember that marriage is a climb and as long as we are holding on to the hand of God, the sights will be wonderful. Many people see marriage as just the opposite... to their demise. They see it starting on a romantic "ski-lift" which carries them to the top of the mountain of romance and then just allows them to "slalom" down the mountain with ease, across the steep slope that lies ahead. MARRIAGE DOES NOT BEGIN AT THE APEX... SPIRITUALLY, PHYSICALLY OR MENTALLY. It is a programmed growth process.

You might be saying at this point... well, this is all MY business. Wrong! It is God's business. When a child builds a house with blocks, he builds just as large a house as he has blocks with which to build. With God's blocks of success in marriage, we build in a definite way and we build to completion. The building created in a beautiful God ordained marriage as one of the greatest methods He uses in revealing Himself to the world. He explains Himself in this way. Let God's hand fashion each of you so as to help you grow into His own glorious character and likeness. Work to attain the highest degree of perfection in God's most profound human relationship.

Brother Len Wertz

THE COMMUNION OF THE BROKEN BODY OF CHRIST

Luke 22:19, I Cor. 11:27-28

After the feet washing service is ended and the Lord's Supper is eaten, the next step in the Communion Service is the breaking of bread.

This bread has been made by the sisters of in the church, usually the deacons' wives. The bread is made without yeast, since leaven is often referred to as sin in the Bible. This bread is to represent the sinless body of Christ.

The scripture reads, "And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it them saying, this is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me." Luke 22:19.

The officiating elder takes this bread which has been broken into long strips, and asks the Lord's blessing upon it that it may be consecrated from a common bread to a sacred emblem, representing the broken body of Christ.

He then breaks a piece of it to a brother and hands one to a sister, these in turn breaking off a small portion to the one seated next to them saying, "Dear Sister, or Brother," as the case may be, "This bread, which we break is the communion of the body of Christ."

The bread is passed around the table till each person has a small portion. They then eat this bread in solemn, holy reverence, meditating on the great suffering and sacrifice of our Lord, when he gave his life that we might have eternal life.

"I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." John 6:51.

"And Jesus said unto them, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you." John 6:53.

Self-examination, before partaking of these sacred emblems is a very serious matter for each person surrounding the Lord's table. "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith." II Cor. 13:5. Also, "Let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup." I Cor. 11:28. "Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink of this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord." I Cor. 11:27.

It is necessary for our heart to be right before the Lord so that we do not eat in an unworthy manner and cause condemnation to our souls.

Sister Maxine Surbey

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

Immersion, the Mode

J. H. Moore

The mode of baptism, as set forth in the New Testament, ought not to be difficult to determine. The people to whom John the Baptist preached, understood what was meant when baptism was mentioned. When Jesus told his apostles to teach or disciple all nations, "baptizing them into the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matt. 28:19), they understood just what was meant by the word baptize. There was no controversy about the meaning of the word in those days, and there ought to be none now.

The books composing the New Testament were originally written in the Greek, and the Sacred Volume has come down to us in that language. Now, in order to ascertain what mode was taught by Jesus, and practiced by the apostles, it is only necessary to note what Greek word was used to designate the rite, and then to ascertain the meaning of that particular word.

There are three words to be considered, and each one has a specific meaning. There is *rantizo*, to sprinkle; and *ekcheo*, to pour out. On examining the great commission (Matt. 28:19), we find that the Master made use of neither of these words. Not only so, but there is not an instance in the entire New Testament, relating to baptism, where either *rantizo* or *ekcheo* is employed in describing the act. Had those who wrote the New Testament understood that Jesus taught sprinkling in his commission, it would have been easy enough for them to write the word *rantizo*. Had this been done, then everybody would know, as a matter of certainty, that the Master meant to teach sprinkling. But since they did not use the word *rantizo*, meaning sprinkling, it follows that there is no ground whatever for sprinkling in the commission. The same course of reasoning disposes of *ekcheo*, to pour out. In the New Testament there is no authority, whatever, for pouring as baptism.

There remains one more word to examine; viz., *baptizo*, and this is the very word found in the commission. Furthermore, it is the word employed, in some of its forms, to describe the act in every instance where baptism is mentioned in the New Testament, save in the few instances where baptism is compared to a washing. Its meaning may easily be determined by its use in the Old Testament. We cite the instance regarding Naaman, where we read: "Then went he down and dipped himself seven times in Jordan" (II Kings 5:14). *Baptizo* is the word employed in the Greek text, and is here

very properly rendered dipped. The meaning of the word is to dip or to immerse, and is so rendered in every Greek Lexicon of note in the world. There is not a Greek scholar of reputation who would venture to render baptizo by either sprinkling or pouring.

OBITUARY

BULA M. STAMBAUGH

Sister Bula M. Stambaugh, 91, of Astoria, Illinois passed away March 18, 1987 in the Astoria Healthcare Center following a lengthy illness.

She was born August 30, 1895 in Red Cloud, Nebraska, a daughter of Emanuel and Amanda (Schisler) Fitz. On November 30, 1947 she married John W. Stambaugh, who died January 23, 1965. One sister also preceded her in death and a stepson Willard Dean Stambaugh.

Surviving are three stepsons, Willis of Robinson, Illinois; Verle and Dale both of Astoria, Illinois; a stepdaughter, Mrs. Lois L. Shawgo of Springfield, Illinois; twelve step-grandchildren, fourteen step-great-grandchildren; a nephew, Milton D. Rust of Colorado and a cousin, Sister Beulah M. Fitz of Dallas Center, Iowa.

At an early age Bula and her mother came to Astoria. A member of the Church of the Brethren, she later joined the South Fulton Dunkard Brethren Church, of which she was a charter member.

Funeral services were held March 20 in the Shawgo Memorial Home in Astoria with Elder Ray Reed of Dallas Center, Iowa officiating. Burial in the Astoria Cemetery.

Sister Bula donated her eyes that someone would be privileged to read their Bible as she did.

NEWS ITEMS

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing, the Bethel Congregation plans to have a Lovefeast, Saturday, May 9, beginning at 2:30 P.M. Services also Sunday morning.

We invite all who can to come and worship with us.

Sister Fern Kegerreis, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MAY 1987

May 3 - Follow After Peace - Romans 14:1-23.

1. What name is given to peace makers? Matt. 5:9.
2. How do we become peacemakers? Verse 19.

May 10 - Mother's Day - II Kings 4:8-37.

1. What are the duties of mothers in the home? Proverbs 31:27.
2. Are all mothers good instructors? I Kings 22:52.

May 17 - A Minister of Christ to the Gentiles - Romans 15:1-33.

1. To whom did Christ come to minister? Verse 12.
2. In verse 6 whom are we to glorify?

May 24 - Wise Unto That Which Is Good - Romans 16:1-27.

1. What warning does Paul give in verse 7?
2. How do we become wise to do good?

May 31 - Christ Crucified - I Corinthians 1:1-31.

1. What gospel did Paul preach? Verse 23.
2. Whom did Paul say God had chosen to preach the gospel?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MAY 1987

May 3 - First Miracle at Cana - John 2:1-11.

1. What prompted the Mother of Christ to tell Him they had no wine?
2. What advice did she give the servants?

May 10 - Mothers - Gen. 21:14-20, Ex. 2:1-10, I Kings 3:23-28, John 19:15-27.

1. Why did God tell Abraham He would make Hagar's son a great nation?
2. Where did Moses' mother hide Moses?

May 17 - Cheerfulness - Pro. 15:9-16, John 16:1-8, 32-33, Acts 27:21-36.

1. What brings cheer to an individual?
2. What great truth did Jesus give in John 16:33.

May 24 - Fear - Deut. 10:11-14, Ecc. 12:13-14, Matt. 10:22-31, I Pet. 1:13-19.

1. What command did God give Moses to the children of Israel?
2. Why did Peter tell us we are to sojourn here in fear? I Pet. 1:17.

May 31 - Reality - Gen. 3:1-24, Matt. 3:1-9, James 4:13-14.

1. What did God promise Adam and Eve if they disobeyed?
2. What does James tell us about life in James 4:13-14?

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXV

MAY 1, 1987

NO. 9

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

HAPPY THE HOME

Happy the home, when God is there,
And love fills ev'ry breast;
Where one their wish, and one their pray'r,
And one their heav'nly rest.

Happy the home where Jesus' name
Is sweet to ev'ry ear;
Where children early lisp his fame
And parents hold him dear.

Happy the home where pray'r is heard,
And praise is wont to rise;
Where parents love the sacred Word,
And live but for the skies.

Lord! let us in our homes agree,
This blessed peace to gain;
Unite our hearts in love to thee,
And love to all will reign.

- Selected

MOTHERHOOD

God, in His wisdom, made mothers. Beginning with Eve, He has used mothers to not only populate the world but to nourish and inspire their offspring. There is something extra special about mother!

She, who conceives that child, carries it within her body, often at great discomfort. By her pains and even endangerment the child is delivered. Her connection with the child does not end at delivery—she has a long time service before her in caring for that child, who is unable to care for his own needs.

The physical exertions demanded of the mother, though tiring and time consuming, are not her most important duty. The Spiritual training she gives her children by precept and example is her greatest legacy. Her family may not appreciate this part of her service to them while young, but in after years it will be this training that will cause them to praise her the most. While being trained there were desires of their hearts that were denied as she looked out for their best interests even when they did not fully understand what was best for themselves.

Her Spiritual teaching is reinforced and made easier if the father also favors and actively promotes the same lessons. Her lessons may lose some of their power when the father lives and even works against them. United parents can accomplish much. However, mothers often can overcome indifference and even opposition from their mates. Mothers have an influence because they are the ones who care for the children when they suffer their little bruises and cuts. Mothers are the ones who care for the children when they are seriously ill. While Father may have a deep love and

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concern, he does not possess the tenderness of mother.

Mother's influence is not usually instilled by force but by tenderness. She may not give much instruction along doctrinal lines but she by example and suggestion can mold their lives along practical lines. By her willingness to participate in the activities of the Church she shows the children the most significant activities for their lives. She shows a willingness to help others and to do the less-than-glamorous jobs that must be done either at home or at the meetinghouse. She extends hospitality to those who enter her home. She shows thereby the practical side of love.

Love for the children can best be shown through the love of the parents for each other. This shows what love is and teaches them how to love. Mother by her love for father, even if he is not all that he could be, shows true love. It would be easy to love that which is perfect but when she can show the same intense love for her imperfect mate, she shows true love. Many may be the faults of the father but if Mother has that great love, she will hold that father up as a worthy parent before the children.

Mother will demonstrate a great Christian virtue in her life if she has a submissive spirit. If she is willing to be submissive even when she feels she knows best and would do differently, she shows that spirit for all to learn. It may not always be easy for her to yield but the rewards for her submissiveness will be greater than the price she pays. If she has no other reason than that of following Christ's submissive example it will bring her a great reward. Exaltation does not come without submission.

Mother will be an attentive attendant at worship services. She will not become so busy with activities that she cannot be present for services on a regular basis. She should lift her voice in song and her heart in prayer.

Mothers have a special relationship with their children from the time of conception until adulthood. Because of their intimate involvement with the life of a child they have the opportunity to mold that life. First while carrying the child they can be careful of their activities. They have a special desire not only for the health of the child but the continuation of its existence until birth. Just as a mother is concerned with her own nutrition as it affects her unborn child so she is going to be concerned with the child's nutrition after birth. Not only will she be concerned about the child's physical nutrition but even more importantly its Spiritual nutrition.

Motherhood is not easy but it has many blessings. God created mothers and gave them not only their duties and responsibilities but also their talents and love for their families. Who else should be so highly honored here on earth as mothers? Their husbands

should adore and uphold them. Their children should exalt them. Mothers are very special people.

WHAT DOES YOUR MOTHER DO FOR YOU?

Honor thy Mother.... Eph. 6:2

She greets you with a loving smile,
Each morning when you wake.
The kitchen is her workshop, while
She fixes you good things to eat.
She wants her children to be healthy and strong,
And so she works the whole day long.
There's washing and ironing and beds to make,
Dishes to wash and cake to bake.
Furniture to dust and rugs to sweep,
Floors to mop, now, the room looks neat.
She sends you to bed to get your rest,
Knowing tomorrow will be a test.
She wants you to do your best in school
And learn to live by the golden rule.
She sews and mends your clothes so neat,
She dresses you warmly from head to feet.
She settles your squabbles and dries your tears,
She hushes your cries and calms your fears.
When you are ill, there's just no doubt,
That with her care you'll soon be about.
She teaches you, your Bible to read,
You'll learn God's will, church doctrine and creed.
Honor the Sabbath and fear the Lord,
Now love and obey God's Holy Word!
What Can You Do For Mother?

- By Sister Maxine E. Surbey

ONCE A MOTHER

Once a mother, always a mother. Even if you're a grandmother, you are still a mother, just in a different phase. Very simply stated, a mother is a female parent, but being a parent isn't simple. A mother is one who cares for, nourishes and protects her young. She stays up nights when necessary, and seldom, if ever, takes a day off or a real vacation. Being a mother is not a job in the sense that paid employment is, but it is a position with plenty of work and responsibility. The pay? That comes later.

Sometimes during the month of May, a day is always set aside especially for mothers. If you are a mother, you know your day is really every day. Each day is a time to tend to household duties, to cope with minor tragedies such as cuts and bruises. It is a time to wrap up each day in prayer, a day to think about serving Jesus in every little act. It is a day to teach little minds, to correct them, to love them. As children mature, you use a more mature approach, but the basic principles remain the same.

If you want security in a position, you will have it as a mother. It is true that the initial responsibility is the greatest, and the mother-child relationship changes, but it does continue. As you progress through the various stages, your responsibilities will change, but they too continue on. From mother to mother-in-law to grandmother, maybe even to great-grandma, indicates a title change, but you're still a mother. There is never a time when you can look at your child and say, "Now I'm all done."

God expects parents to teach their children properly and He will bless those who are faithful in this. Every mother (and father) has a spiritual responsibility which surpasses the responsibility to provide food, clothes, and so forth. Christian mothers are noted for watching over their children in prayer, and this care and concern continues throughout life. She doesn't forget about spiritual needs just because a child leaves home.

One of many examples in the Bible of a good mother is Samuel's mother. Hannah prayed for a son and promised that he would be the Lord's. She kept her promise, and even though her child was out of sight, he was not out of her mind. Each year, she made a little coat for him, and I believe she continued to pray for him. For the complete story, read I Samuel 1-3. Hannah was a woman of faith and commitment. Being a mother was serious business with her, and it should be with every mother.

Naomi was an outstanding mother-in-law. She must have been for Ruth to be so determined to go where Naomi went. Naomi was grieved for her daughters-in-law because they were both widows. (See Ruth 1:13) She urged them to return to their own people. Ruth refused, saying, "Whither thou goest, I will go" and "thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God." (Ruth 1:16) Ruth was blessed for her care of Naomi in many ways. She later became the wife of Boaz, and the great-grandmother of King David. Naomi's faithful life helped bring out the best in Ruth. Mothers-in-law, take notice!

In the New Testament, there is a grandmother mentioned. It is Lois, the grandmother of Timothy. There is a simple statement about her faith in II Timothy 1:5, also that of her daughter and

grandson. Faith isn't inherited, but the influence of a mother's faith does continue on. Lois' faith was still evident in the life of her grandson, Timothy. Her Godly life had a direct influence on him as well as her own daughter. A child must be trained in the things of the Lord from the very start to insure the best result, and I believe Lois did this.

Once a mother, always a mother! If you don't want a lifetime responsibility, don't become one. It's not an easy task, but God will help you to do your best. No mother is perfect, but if you are faithful to God, He will bless you. You are helping to shape a life —do it faithfully for the Lord. As your children mature, they may not do everything you'd like them to do, but even so, you must do your part. Finish what you start, and you won't be sorry, even though it takes a lifetime to get the job done!

Sister Eileen Broadwater

EARLY MORNING CHOICES

Good morning! When you wake up each morning, we become an active person; active in making choices — hopefully to the glory of God.

The first thing we think and say may be more important than we think. (Matthew 12:34-37) We are a people created by God with the ability to choose. We are also a people of habit, able to do things without thinking. This is something God watches, because "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." What we do off "the top of our head" shows what the inner man is really like. All things kept in secret are eventually revealed. (Luke 8:17)

God really does notice everything we choose to do, good or bad. This is why, as Christians today, we need to choose Jesus as Lord of our life every day, every hour, every minute.

When we first wake up, it's best to wait, listen, and think. Brain, body, and soul all need to wake up and listen to the Spirit of God. We must let God, by His Spirit, fill us with His perfect love. (II Timothy 1:7; I John 4:13-21)

Now that we're awake, we think, "Why was I created?" We are created to please God. (Revelation 4:11) He desires our complete love. (Mark 12:30-31) It's up to us to make the choice. Will we please Him and love Him, or not? How are some ways we can please God? We need to look into God's Word for answers. Here we find that we must believe in our heart and confess with our mouth that Jesus is our Lord and Saviour. (Romans 10:9-10); confess our sins to Jesus (I John 1:9); ACCEPT God's love and forgiveness; ACCEPT the leading of the Holy Spirit; offer up praise

and thanksgiving; pray for others; and let the fruit of the Spirit flow as we share the testimony of the saving blood of Jesus.

Again, we can choose whether we will make God happy, like David (Psalms 108:1-5; Acts 13:22), or angry, as Moses once did. (Exodus 4:1-14).

It's up to us how we start the day. Early in the morning we can choose self-will, or we can choose to worship God our Creator with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. And as we go throughout the day, we can choose whether we just keep the wonderful thoughts of Jesus in our heart, or whether to share them with others. (Romans 10:9-15; Psalms 96:3; Malachi 3:16) The choice is up to each one of us.

"Give ear to my words, O Lord, consider my meditation. Harken unto the voice of my cry, my King and my God: for unto Thee will I pray. My voice shalt Thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto Thee, and will look up." (Psalms 5:1-3)

God bless each one of you.

Brother Roy Litfin
Quinter, KS

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

MARRIAGE

Part 2

In this issue, we will attempt to share some thoughts relative to the Christian marriage problem of excuses and elements and expectations that are encountered. These problems are not unique to young marrieds but seem to plague many marriages throughout life. It is our goal to identify some typical excuses people use which hinders marital and spiritual growth and apply Biblical teachings as solutions to these problems.

Marriage is a pilgrimage from individual self-centeredness to a fuller corporate life. In reality, it is the laying down of one's life for the other, not in self-martyrdom but in joy of service. I have heard it said that fifty-fifty is the formula for divorce. If this is true, one hundred percent giving to another is the equation for blessedness. A corporate life is the sign of maturity and self-centeredness shows immaturity. We can literally measure our distance from real life in Jesus by the degree of our regression into selfish thought and demands. Conversely, proximity to Jesus is shown by its fruit in the ease of our giving and sharing.

One of the tendencies of human nature is to place blame on

others for difficulties we are experiencing. When people have problems in marriage they usually resort to two procedures: (1) they defend themselves and (2) they try to discover why the other person does what he or she does. They seem certain they will be happy if they just know WHY the other person acts "that way." In reality, knowing why an individual does something doesn't necessarily solve a problem. In fact, finding out "why" is not always important... nor is it always possible. What IS important is spending time determining what is going on in a relationship and making plans for solving the difficulties or making necessary changes in a Biblical way. Sometimes reasons become important and at other times they just become "excuses."

What are some typical excuses used when a marriage isn't what it should be? Some people blame their HEALTH. (I am just tired all of the time. My metabolism is just different than yours.) Some blame their FEELINGS. (My nerves are so shaky and you don't help them at all. I've been depressed. The children make me so upset.) Other people blame their NATURE. (I'm just this way and always have been. I can't change.)

Some people blame OTHERS. (Her mother is always...! It's the children!) Some blame the PAST. (She has always been that way. My parents always used to put me down.) Secular psychologists patronize this excuse a lot. Some people blame their PARTNERS for all of the problems. (He makes me so upset I could scream! If only he'd listen to me and be quiet.) Finally, some people blame the three letter word "why?" (Why don't we communicate? If only I could understand why he does that!) Are these recognizable excuses that are creating barriers in the marriage of someone you know? As you see them on the written page, do you see the unChristlikeness of them?

Proverbs 25:11 teaches us that "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver." Proverbs 18:13 communicates, "He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him." These verses share with us the importance of COMMUNICATION. A person who makes excuses may feel threatened or insecure and may have a poor self image. This leads to a lack of communication and admission of the real problem.

Admission of problems is Biblical in all phases of life and is especially applicable in marriage. Not only must there be forgiveness but there must be a support of the forgiveness. People need to stop making excuses about what seemingly can't be done in the marriage and put forth solid efforts in building the marriage to God's ordained heights. Excuses create problems and postpone or negate solutions.

To be fulfilled in marriage, there are several suggestions that can be made. First, there must be COOPERATION with your spouse in every effort to improve and enhance the marital relationship. It would be typical that one person might have a greater concern about upgrading the marriage than the other. You need to be happy, full of sympathy toward each other, loving, tender hearted, humble and FORGIVING. You can't repay evil for evil and have a transformed marriage just as you can't have proper Christian relationships under the same condition. You must be careful not to snap back at the other person when you are feeling badly. Instead, pray that God's power might work mightily in them and that He will do His perfect will in the person's life.

Secondly, you need to give praise and appreciation instead of seeking it for yourself. People too often go about seeking to have their own needs met first and only after these are satisfied do they attend to the spouse's needs. (Read Phil. 2:4) Compliments should be paid frequently to your spouse and they must be fresh and true. Wives can thank their husbands for the effort they put in in providing for the family and for providing a home. Wives can be thankful for a clean house, meals properly prepared and for their care for the family. Thanksgiving is thanksgiving and this leads to answers to problems and excuses.

Third, the evening time should be a time of love and affection instead of a time of complaints and demands. What occurs in the first few minutes after the husband comes home from work usually sets the tone in the home for the remainder of the evening.

Finally, responsibilities and decision making should be defined in the context of Biblical teaching. We seem to understand submission in the church relationships when we don't always understand it fully at home.

God REQUIRES that marriage partners be patient with each other. At times you just expect too much of the other person and because of their personality or background, these demands are unrealistic. ALWAYS... the marriage partner must be looked upon as another "child of God." You can love them, not in terms of what you think they should be, but what God has created them to be. You love their potential. You love their uniqueness. You must, "in honour, prefer one another." Ultimately, you must give your needs over to the lordship of Christ... not just in word, but in fact. LOVE AND FORGIVENESS ARE THE POWER THAT WILL GUARANTEE STRENGTH IN MARRIAGE... not excuses. Excuses lead to bondage and decay.

Brother Len Wertz

SIXTY YEARS AGO

May 1, 1927

NON-CONFORMITY

Theodore Myers

Some twenty years ago when I joined the Church of the Brethren, one of the outstanding and distinctive doctrines was that of non-conformity. Today all you can hear along that line is "the simple life." I guess a softer and more modern term.

It would be well to study these two terms and see if they both fill the gospel requirements, especially in the light of what has taken place within the church since working on the latter basis. I believe after careful study, all will agree that it is possible to follow a simple life program and still be conformed to this world, even in our manner of dress. But what starts out to be simple does not remain so too often.

I realize that many do not think the church had a right to set a certain standard of dress. Let us consider that for a moment. It has always been considered that where the gospel was definite that should be the guide by which to go. When it was not specific on a certain point then try and follow the spirit or intent as the best light and judgment would dictate.

I have often wondered how anybody could say that a sister or brother dressed in accordance with the decision of Annual Conference (1911) in any way violated any letter or spirit of the gospel, (providing the life matched the dress). The brethren prayed so earnestly for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in forming a conclusion as to what would be the proper way for a Christian to appear in the matter of clothing when confronted by the ever changing styles and fashions dictated by ungodly men and women for the purpose of making money and to which styles thousands are mere slaves.

I have the first person that will say that their prayer was not answered and that they were not guided by the Holy Spirit in coming to the conclusion they did. The best proofs that they were so led, are that the garb recommended for both brethren and sisters meets every Bible requirement, and what it has done for the church in holding the bond of unity, and the results that have followed since members have so generally violated the decision.

I do not believe there ever was a church that made so radical a change in so short a time as has the Church of Brethren. Other churches once stood where she stood along this line but where are they today, numbered with the slaves of fashion, but theirs was a more gradual transition.

Our church fathers were constrained to form a separate organization not being able to satisfy their souls' need and longings in any other organization of their day. I am wondering if those organizations have so completely reformed that those fathers could fit in now, or if they would be willing to be just mere followers, or if they would not be as they were in their day — real leaders.

Eternity alone will reveal the good our special garb has done to the souls of men and women. I am sure it has kept many away from questionable places, because they knew their garb did not correspond with the character and conditions of the place that they otherwise would have gone. Neither do I believe there is a sister in the brotherhood that wears a bonnet that has, or even is tempted to have her hair bobbed. Should there be one, what a combination!

True, all too true, there are those who do not live up to what their clothing would indicate, and what publicity they do receive! But how mighty little is said of the thousands of good, honest, sincere and Spirit filled godly men and women, as your father and mother, perhaps were. Neither do you hear of lack of spirituality of the bobbed hair sisters, and the "flapper Christians" if there can be such a thing.

Some how these two types of members are seldom mentioned, it is usually some pious looking deacon who has done something to betray his trust that is thrown upon the screen (all for a purpose).

So much is said these days of compelling people to do so and so. I fail to see the ground for these statements. We are surrounded by all types and kinds of churches and before anybody joins any of them they should count the cost and understand what they are joining, what the certain church stands for, if it happens to stand for anything.

Now if I of my own free will, after due consideration of polity and doctrines of a church, make application to join any church whether it be Methodist, Catholic or Dunkard Brethren, it is my bounden duty to obey the rules that govern that body. Then why should and do people join a church that does not believe in conforming to the world in the matter of dress and promise to be true and faithful till death then violate that sacred promise but still desire to be members? When there are so many churches that do not consider this a violation.

A lodge or any organized body must have some rules and regulations whereby it is governed. Then why not do what we have promised? I am sure a sister or brother whose life will correspond can find no other garb that will become them any better, that is the injunction, to dress as becometh men and women professing Godliness.

I am sure I have seen lodge men and women parading the streets in paraphernalia that if the church would ask them to do so for Christ's sake they would rebel. Why not be as true to your church as the lodge members are to their lodge?

So often we are ashamed to be seen on the streets and be recognized as Christians. Beware! Jesus says "whosoever is ashamed of me in this sinful generation, of him will I be ashamed when he comes with the holy angels."

I am sure the wrong party is ashamed, for those who are but half dressed and look as if they were dipped in a flour barrel, and so forth, are the ones who would really have reasons to be ashamed.

Brethren, let us hold fast our profession. Let us pray for more grace and strength to live in this present world as we ought.

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

THE MEANING OF BAPTIZO

J. H. Moore

Did space permit, we might quote from scores of lexicons and encyclopedias, showing that the Greek word baptizo, the word employed by the New Testament writers to describe baptism, means "to dip," "to immerse," or "to immerge" in some manner, but in this connection we present a few only.

Bretschneider - "Baptizo: properly, to dip repeatedly; . . . to immerse into water, to submerge."

Donnegan - "Baptizo: to immerse repeatedly into a liquid; to submerge, sink."

Grimm - "Baptizo - to dip repeatedly, to immerse, submerge."

Liddell and Scott - "Baptizo: to dip in or under water."

Stockius - "Baptizo: generally and by force of the word it has the notion of dipping in and of immersing."

Thayer - Baptizo: to dip repeatedly; to immerse, submerge."

To the above we may add the testimony of Professor Charles Anthon, a man of fine scholarship, well acquainted with the ancient languages, and the author of a number of books, including Greek and Latin textbooks for colleges and universities. Being asked the meaning of the Greek word baptizo, he gave this answer: "The primary meaning of the word is to dip or immerse, and its secondary meanings, if it ever had any, all refer, in some way or other, to the same leading idea. Sprinkling and so forth are entirely out of the question." Professor Anthon does not differ from other distinguished scholars, for all of them, as stated before, are united in defining the word as here given.

But there is another very simple way of getting at the exact

meaning of baptizo, and this is to study the meaning of the word in connection with the instances where baptism is described in the New Testament. In Matt. 3:5-6 we read that the people of Jerusalem, all Judea and the region round about, on accepting the teachings of John the Baptist, "were baptized of him in Jordan." In the same chapter (verses 13-17) we are told how Jesus came from Galilee to John, and was baptized of him, and then "went up straightway out of the water." This can mean nothing short of immersion, for those who have the water sprinkled or poured on them do not have to come up out of the water. The mere fact that Jesus came up out of the water is positive proof that he was immersed.

In Acts 8:36-39 we have an account of baptism that is too plain to be misunderstood. We read that Philip and the eunuch "came into a certain water." Then, the record says, after the chariot had stopped, "They went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch." After they got into the water, it is said that Philip baptized the eunuch." Surely, the baptizing was done in the water, for that is why the two went down into the water. In the closing part of the narrative we read: "And when they were come up out of the water." If this plain account of the baptismal scene does not mean immersion then it means nothing. A narrative in favor of immersion could not be made plainer.

All the accounts of baptism in the New Testament might be taken up and shown to be on the side of immersion, but we will let one more suffice. Turning to John 3:23, we have this reading: "And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came and were baptized." For baptism, John sought out places where there was much water. People flocked to him by the hundreds, and as he immersed those who accepted his teachings, much water became a necessity. If sprinkling or pouring had been the rule, there would have been no occasion for "much water."

For the information of those who care to make use of a very interesting way of ascertaining the meaning of the Greek word baptizo, - the word employed by the Savior to describe the rite of baptism, we suggest this: In this country may be found hundreds of Greeks, whose mother tongue is modern Greek. Most of them read the New Testament Greek with the same ease we read the English. In the presence of some of these Greeks, dip an object in water repeatedly, and ask them for the Greek word describing the act, and they will invariably give baptizo. Then sprinkle water and ask for the word expressing that idea, and they will give the Greek word for sprinkling. Ask them for the word representing pour, and the Greek word for pouring will give given. They understand their own

language, the language of the New Testament, and never become confused about the word baptizo. They all say it means to immerse, and with them it is not even a debatable question. The Greeks, who use the Greek New Testament in their service, always have practiced immersion.

NEWS ITEMS

NOTICE

The Trustee Board needs funds to meet its obligations by the end of General Conference.

Brother Dale Jamison, Chairman

1987 GENERAL CONFERENCE

Conference for 1987 will be held June 13 through 17 at Mission Springs Conference Center, Santa Cruz, California.

From Santa Cruz go 3½ miles north on Route 17 to Mt. Hermon Road (turn right at Big Basin sign and cross freeway, Route 17). Go 1½ miles on Mt. Hermon Road. Turn right on Lockhart Gulch Road and go 1 mile to Mission Springs Conference Grounds.

For those coming by bus, train or plane be sure to make your own arrangements with members or friends for pick-up when you arrive. If not call 408-335-9133. San Jose is the nearest airport and train depot.

All blankets, linens, towels, washclothes and soap will be furnished.

Send your reservations to Bro. Paul Blocher, 12301 Riverside Avenue, Waterford, CA 95386 or to Bro. Rudy Cover, 2034 Roble Avenue, Modesto, CA 95354.

Brother Rudy Cover

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing, we will be having our lovefeast the third Sunday of May. Anyone who can come is more than welcome.

Sister Dorcas Myers, Cor.

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

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GENERAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

of the

DUNKARD BRETHREN CHURCH

to be held at

MISSION SPRINGS CONFERENCE CENTER
SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA

JUNE 13, 1987 through JUNE 17, 1987

PREACHING PROGRAM

TIME	SPEAKER	SUBJECT	TEXT
Sat. P.M.	To Be Supplied		
Sat. P.M.	Bro. Henry Walker	I Have No Man	John 5:7
Sat. Eve.	Eld. Virgil Leatherman	To Be Supplied	
Sun. A.M.	Sunday School for Children	The Calling of Moses	Ex. 3
Sun. A.M.	Eld. Ora Skiles	Heaven Bound	
Sun. A.M.	Eld. Allen Eberly	To Be Supplied	
Sun. P.M.	Eld. Dale Jamison	To Be Supplied	
Sun. P.M.	Eld. David Skiles	To Be Supplied	
Sun. Eve.	Eld. Edward Johnson	To Be Supplied	
Sun. Eve.	Bro. Len Wertz		
	Young People	Cold Fish from Refrigerator	Matt. 5:1-9
		Christianity	Rev. 3:14-22
Mon. A.M.	Bible Study	Adults: The Christian and Nonresistance	Rom. 12:14-21
		Children: Leaving Egypt	Ex. 14
Mon. A.M.	Bro. Paul Stump	To Be Supplied	
Mon. P.M.	Bro. William Heisey	Redeeming the Time	Eph. 5:16
Mon. P.M.		To Be Supplied	
Mon. Eve.	Eld. Ray Reed	The Principles Of The Doctrine of Christ	Heb. 6:1-2
Mon. Eve.		To Be Supplied	
Tue. A.M.	Bible Study	Adults: The Christians Relationship To Higher Powers	Rom. 13:1-7
		Children: Spying Out The Promised Land	Num. 13 & 14
Tue. A.M.		To Be Supplied	
Tue. P.M.	Decorum Committee and	Missionary Program	
Tue. Eve.	Eld. Galen Litfin	Missionary Sermon	

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXV

May 15, 1987

No. 10

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

STEPPING IN THE LIGHT

Trying to walk in the steps of the Savior,
Trying to follow our Savior and King;
Shaping our lives by His blessed example,
Happy, how happy, the songs that we bring.

Pressing more closely to Him who is leading,
When we are tempted to turn from the way;
Trusting the arm that is strong to defend us,
Happy, how happy, our praises each day.

Walking in footsteps of gentle forbearance,
Footsteps of faithfulness, mercy and love,
Looking to Him for the grace freely promised,
Happy, how happy, our journey above.

Trying to walk in the steps of the Savior,
Upward, still upward, we'll follow our Guide;
When we shall see Him, "The King in His beauty,"
Happy, how happy, our place at His side.

— E. E. Hewitt

MEN'S PLANS

As the highest part of God's creation, men have been given minds and memories capable of devising many intricate plans for their lives. They become involved with various projects and programs that they believe will better their lives, politically, financially, socially or religiously. These plans may be devised for a single individual's benefit or they may be for a group or even for a nation. God has wonderfully endowed men with this mental and emotional capacity.

Men have these abilities but they do not always profit from what God has given them. Men become forgetful. Either they ignore the lessons of history or they ignore the instructions and commandments they are given.

There are many instances recorded in the Bible of men who made plans contrary to the plans that God had made for them. They chose to ignore God's direction and went ahead with their own plans.

Abraham was given many promises by God, including one that he would have innumerable descendants. This promise seemed unobtainable since he did not have a child. Especially as Abraham and Sarah grew older this promise looked more and more unobtainable. So the plan of God was tampered with and their own plan was put in its place. They helped God carry out His Promise!

Sarah was willing for Abraham to use her Egyptian servant as a surrogate mother. Abraham at eighty-six was becoming weary, waiting for God to fulfill that promise, so he consented. The power of suggestion and the availability of alternate means was enough to allure Abraham into trying to help God out. Satan is always

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available to suggest that which is contrary to God's will. Within the world there are always alternate means available. Hagar bore Abraham a son, Ishmael.

It soon became evident to Sarah, that she had made a mistake. She began to persecute Hagar, because she had been able to give Abraham the child, Sarah had been unable to conceive. There were many hard feelings which were prophetic of troubles that continue to exist between Sarah's and Hagar's seed yet today.

With the good intention of helping God out, Sarah and Abraham actually became involved with worldly ideas and doings, which became sin. Sin always demands a price and their deed, no matter how well-intentioned, brought grief and trouble to them and their descendants.

They had grown impatient with God's timetable for fulfilling His promise. They needed to wait another fourteen years rather than use their own ideas to help God out. Their plan may have seemed sensible and the best alternative available, but it was wrong.

After Isaac's birth there was continual tension between Isaac and Ishmael, Sarah and Hagar. This was only the beginning of the troubles between the Jews and the Arabs. Not only does this misdeed foreshadow a major conflict in the world, but it speaks of the tension between the righteous and the wicked.

Christians, as the Spiritual descendants of Abraham, are looking forward to many fulfilled promises given by God in the Bible. Often like Sarah and Abraham, they listen to Satan's suggestions on how they might help God fulfill His promises. However his suggestions always are flawed because they involve a subtle worship of Satan as a wise advisor and a willingness to adopt the ways of the world. There is a mixture of the true and false. When a plan to help God is formulated, it seems so good but before long problems begin to show up. The Godly and the Satanic cannot coexist in the lives of Christians without a decisive choice being made. No person is able to serve two masters.

Today there is much turmoil and tension within individuals because they have tried to serve two masters. Sin brings an unrest and lack of peace. We find troubles all over the world, and problems, both social and moral, in our own country. We find people confined not only to prisons for their aggressions against others but also confined to mental institutions because of the lack of peace within. Unfortunately many of these disquieted souls are Christians. They have tried to help God with their own ideas and plans. They have brought the world's ideas and viewpoints into the Church. Their ignorance of or unwillingness to comply with God's will and Word has brought trouble and stress into their lives.

Sarah's plan seemed reasonable, but the results have brought a

terrible legacy into the world. The choices made by Christians today are just as important. Unrest and the other results of sin will be brought into our lives if we are not careful about fulfilling God's Will

We each need to learn from the examples of old. The Bible is ours to profit by.

PRECIOUS AND BLESSED MEMORIES AND MEMORIALS

We are approaching the time of year, our government has declared a day specially for the memory and memorial for soldiers of our country who have rendered faithful service for its protection. Many have sacrificed their lives for our country. Christians have a more precious and blessed memory and memorial than this. We should "render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's."

Christians have the precious and blessed memories and memorials of our Saviour and faithful soldiers of the Cross of Christ. For some the threat of death in this life did not hinder them from the Lord's labor, as some were put to death for their faithful labor in the Lord's work. We also have the memory and memorial of our faithful foreparents who have cared for us before we could do it and contributed to the spiritual welfare of our never dying souls and also contributed much to the spiritual welfare of others. It was their desire to go forward in the work of the Lord and never lay their armour down. We also have the record of many faithful servants of God of the old dispensation. Some stood firm. The threat of death did not hinder them from being faithful and true to the Lord.

We, who have been blessed with Christian parents who now are laid to rest, can never repay the debt of gratitude we owe them. In the old dispensation they were commanded to honor father and mother which was the first command with promise. Christ renewed that command. The Apostle Paul said we should obey this God given command. To obey it is to receive a promise of well being and long life.

In our short lifetime we have seen many who have ignored this command.

Through disobedience and turning to a sinful life, they had a short stay here on earth. The wages of sin is death and the gift of God is eternal life. The most important thing in this life is our spiritual welfare. True and brave soldiers of the Cross of Christ are holding the highest possession in the world.

In memory, above all, we should render our faithful service to

our saviour, who sacrificed His life for our redemption from sin and promised to go with us through the valley and shadow of death. We have the record of many soldiers of the Cross of Christ in the saving Gospel who were faithful to the end of their lives on earth. Some experienced death in this life for their faithful service to the Lord, realizing it is more important and of much more value for them to gain the much better life to come after this life is over. Those who were faithful and true to the end deserve our honour, praise, memory and memorial.

The most precious and blessed memories and memorials for the Christian in this life is of those who made great sacrifices for the spiritual welfare of others who contributed to the better life to come. Those who are laid to rest who have been a precious blessed Christian example deserve our memory and memorial. Blessed are those who are laid to rest in Christ Jesus. Their works do follow them.

In our life time we have seen where the rising generation did not accept the Christian example of their faithful foreparents. God's Word changes not. It is forever settled in Heaven. We all must face the judgment seat of Christ, there to give an account of our deeds done in this robe of flesh.

Many precious and faithful servants of God recorded in His Word deserve our memory and memorial. A blessed reward is theirs for their faithful service to the Lord. For their faithful service, they always had God's protection. Precious memories how they linger and how they flood our souls. The blessed memories and memorial of the many faithful servants of God that have left this wicked and sinful world should encourage us to press onward and forward in the narrow way to eternal glory. We know it was their desire to meet other faithful servants of God in the greater life to come.

It is God's will that all come to the knowledge and be saved. He sacrificed His only begotten Son for our redemption. Christ's coming was for all to be saved. Professing Christians who demonstrate their desire to put others out of the Church are not led by the Good and Holy Spirit. True Christians are laboring for the salvation of others. Christ calls all to come unto Him and He will give them rest for their never dying souls. The memories and memorials of faithful servants of the Lord are precious and a blessing to us.

We had the blessing of being raised on a farm on which is a cemetery where soldiers of the Cross of Christ are laid to rest. It was father's desire that it be protected and cared for, as many of our ancestors are laid to rest there. When father passed away the Lord entrusted it into my care. I am willing and believe it is my duty to see that it is protected and cared for. I have heard where some

family cemeteries have been destroyed and are used for farming ground. I am made to believe this is a very bad deed and example to others. It showed no respect for their foreparents and others, I always believed. We should respect our foreparents, the living and those laid to rest from the cares of this life. The Saints of the Lord are precious in His sight.

In some of these aged cemeteries on tombstones are recorded Bible verses and the words, "Gone Home To Rest." What a grand thought. Christ said this do in remembrance of me. Let us honour and respect the dead in Christ.

Brother J. F. Marks
RD 3, Box 509, York, PA 17402

THE DASH BETWEEN THE DATES

Colossians 3:23-25 "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.

Once again Memorial Day is before us. I would like to share a poem titled, "The Dash Between the Dates", by Lucille Britt. Although it mentions Memorial Day, that really isn't what the poem is about. It's about you, it's about me, and it's about the time that God has given to each one of us.

THE DASH BETWEEN THE DATES

Memorial Day was over now,
All had left and I was alone.
I began to read the names and dates
Chiseled there on every stone.
The dates which showed whether it was Mom or Dad
Or daughter or baby son.
The dates were different but the amount the same,
There were two on every one.

It was then I noticed something,
It was but a simple line;
It was the dash between the dates
Placed there, it stood for time.
All at once it dawned on me
How important that little line.
The dates placed there belonged to God,
But that line is yours and mine.

It's God who gives this precious life
And God who takes away;
But that line between He gives to us
To do with what we may.
We know God's written the first date down,
Of each and every one,
And we know those hands will write again,
For the last date has to come.
We know He'll write the last date down,
And soon, we know, for some.
But upon the line between my dates
I hope He'll write "Well Done."

—Lucille Britt

If we follow the advice of verse 23 and live heartily as unto the Lord, I'm sure that when God analyzes our life He will write "Well Done" on the dash between the dates.

Brother Roger Swihart
Quinter, Kansas

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

MARRIAGE

Part 3

FORGIVENESS — We pray a lot about forgiveness. Each time we pray the Lord's Prayer we ask God to forgive us as we forgive others. What a demanding prayer that is. We must understand the forgiving is not just a nice option. If we do not forgive . . . we will not be forgiven. Countless times we have seen Christians not applying forgiveness and in their refusal to forgive, their carnality rules. This principle is absolutely mandatory in marriage.

Each day of our lives we have many irritations and marriages are not void of some of these. For this reason, forgiveness is central to the marriage unit. If it is not there, the marriage will "self-destruct." A marriage can't afford the luxury of even one grudge. Whatever is not forgiven will work like a cancer to eat out the vitality of the family life. It will color like dye all of the other seemingly unrelated areas. The simplest resentment for failing to come home on time for supper or the like can affect the ability to express affection, the freedom of sharing in conversation, physical health and so on. A grudge held is like sand thrown into a well-oiled machine.

Could there be a problem at times in thinking we have forgiven

when we really haven't? It may seem easy to say the word but is it as easy to make the heart follow? Sometimes, because of our sin nature, we fool ourselves. Whatever hurts us registers in the heart and demands a response. The mind and lips can say "it's o.k." while the heart still hurts and demands a response which is different. We must constantly be in prayer that God will change our hearts and through His transformation, we will be able to meet the demands that are before us.

Here are some simple guidelines for forgiveness. First of all, if you have not made the hurt a matter of specific confession of resentment and hate in prayer, it is not a completed matter. Only Jesus can anoint you with true peace. Only at the cross is any matter ultimately finished. If it has not been relinquished in prayer, it is still lodged in the "never-forget-anything" bank of your computer . . . waiting to be recalled to action somewhere, sometime.

When you discover that a seed of resentment is sending taproots down into your heart, then you must enter into a discipline of forgiveness. First, you need to identify the resentment. You need to face facts squarely. Accepting these facts, you can say to Jesus, "Take every anger out of me to the cross. Don't let me hold any resentment, whether I am aware of it or not." In a way, we take that resentment to Gethsemane. Gethsemane was the place of prayer where Jesus laid aside His righteousness and became all that we are. As we recognize our sin nature and go down deep into our soul, we begin to see that our personal sin of lacking in forgiveness is causing us to create barriers in our relationship. The visit to Gethsemane is not complete as long as we are still inwardly marshaling our defenses of our own rightness and cataloging the other person's sins.

Why must we go through the Gethsemane of brokenness? If you do not come through the loss of your own self-righteousness and identification with your personal sin, you will never be free because you will always feel noble and self-martyring that you forgave the other person. And then each time you have to repeat forgiveness, you will grow that much more self-martyring and noble and of course better than your marriage partner. You must come down from the pedestal.

Then, we need to claim Jesus' forgiveness. We can't change our heart . . . only Jesus can enter into it and change it. (Jer. 13:23) Is the process now complete? Not yet. I Peter 3:9 tells us to now bless the person who has spitefully used us. This means we will invest our love in a special way in his or her behalf. Romans 12:14-21 confirms this part of the process. We are to overcome evil with good. What does it mean to "heap coals of fire on his head" and how does this apply to marriage? In Biblical times, there were no

electric ranges or matches. Fire was a precious commodity, scarce because fuel was scarce. Therefore, one man in a village was appointed to keep a fire going all night. In the wee hours of the morning, he built it up and let it burn down to hot coals. These he scooped into a metal brazier which he sat on a wood block on his head. Then he went with tongs from kitchen to kitchen so every housewife could have hot coals for her day's cooking. It became an idiom that "to heap coals of fire on his head" meant to turn a man into a spreader of warmth in the community. This principle in marriage illustrates that by love and warmth . . . instead of bitterness and unforgiveness . . . you can create an environment of peace in the home. Until you complete the process of forgiveness by blessing your partner, you have not overcome and followed through to resurrection living. Blessing the one who hurt us is thus not a nice option for those who can do it . . . it is another absolute necessity if we are to be whole and continue in a Christ-like relationship. The flesh can never do this. Only the spiritual person can experience it. Pray together . . . letting the other person share in and hear your forgiveness, love and blessing on him. If you really love Jesus, you cannot abide with a grudge in your heart knowing that it grieves Him. Forgive God's way and understand the fullness of restoration in marriage.

Brother Len Wertz

SIXTY YEARS AGO

May 15, 1927

POWER OF THOUGHT

E. L. Withers

Every sound man or woman is blessed with a greater or lesser amount of thinking power, which should be used to the honor and glory of God. Yet we are free moral agents to do and think as we please, so long as we keep in the bounds of the law.

But God's children are taught to work out their "own salvation with fear and trembling," and this would require much thinking, meditating and prayer. Paul tells us to think on the things that are true and honest and just and pure and lovely and of good report and virtue and praise. (Phil. 4:8)

Too many in the churches of today are permitting their preachers and pastors to do their thinking for them and in this way they are led from the truth and are made to believe they are building on the rock Christ Jesus, when they are only building on the sand, and it may be too late. They will discover their great mistake in not thinking and working out their own soul's salvation.

"Wherefore let him that thinketh he stand take heed lest he fall." (I Cor. 10:12) It is by deep thinking and hard studying and much prayer that we improve our talents.

Thinking for ourselves is often a difficult gift. But it is the foundation of progress both in the church and in the governments of the world. Paul says, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." If the mind of Christ is in us and we use our minds or thinking power we will accomplish the things that will be to the honor and glory of God. What we are and what we accomplish depends to a great extent on what and how we think. Emerson said, "Beware when the great God lets loose thinkers on this planet." Why? Because they are going to stand for what they believe and be right even though the majority is against them.

But not all great thinkers are from God. Satan has his thinkers by the thousands and they are a very busy crowd thinking out plans how they can deceive if it were possible the very elect. Some of his best and most successful workers are trained up in our church colleges. They have learned to draw the line so close that unless a true Christian is careful and prayerful in discerning of spirits he may be deceived. Jesus says "the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light." (Luke 16:9) Why? Because as a rule they work harder, think harder, sacrifice more to accomplish the object in view. It may be to win members for some secret oath bound lodge or advertising some show or selling life insurance, or explain away some of Christ's plain teachings, or whatever it may be, they use all the wisdom and thinking power possible to accomplish their object.

But how about God's children? Are they as a rule publishing abroad the glad tidings of salvation? Thinking and praying for wisdom that they might be able to win souls for the kingdom of God. Brother, sister, let us think prayerfully on these things. If we have God's love in our hearts, let us tell the world about it. Let us think about his word while engaged in our daily labors and when we sit down to rest and when we lie down at night and when we rise up in the morning.

The life of the church is the rising up of great thinkers scattered through its history like mountains on the horizon, from Christ and his disciples even down to our time. We are made to think of such great thinkers as Alexander Mack, Christopher Sower, Eld. James Quinter, Eld. D. L. Miller and we might go on and name many others who towered high as great thinkers and workers for the great cause they loved so dearly. And last but not least our dear brethren who are at the head of the organization known as the Dunkard Brethren, which is only another work of reform which always becomes necessary when Satan's strongholds gain too

much power in the church. There is but one thing to do and that is for God's true followers to come out from among them and be separate, and when this becomes necessary, God always raises up some real thinkers, to lead his children out just as he raised up Moses to lead the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt. God is always equal to the occasion and when he wants a man or woman to fill a certain place he can always find them. Too many of us get into a mental rut and the longer we travel in it the deeper it gets. We forget to do any thinking and praying for ourselves. The only way out of this rut is prayer and thought. We often have heard it said by professing Christian people, that if they knew of any organization that lived closer to the word of God than the one they belonged to, they would change at once for the better one. But, alas, when they find a people who have banded themselves together to walk in all the ways and observe all the teachings of their master how hard it is to get out of the old rut and rally to the support of those who are his true humble followers. We often sing that beautiful song, "Follow, follow, I will follow Jesus, anywhere he leads me I will follow on." But are we willing to do it?

It is our praying and thinking and deep meditating on the word of God that will make you strong enough in Christ to be able to follow him even when it may become necessary to lose some of your best friends, or withdraw from a people who have been very dear to you, in order to be with those who have proved to be obeying the Master's teachings more fully in all things. The question may be asked how can we become thinkers for ourselves instead of imitators? The answer is by thinking and asking for Divine help. James says, "If any of you lack wisdom let him ask of God that giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not and it shall be given him." (James 1:5)

Men become good singers by singing, swift runners by running, good merchants by merchandising, good writers by writing, great preachers by preaching, good Christians by Christian living.

No one just happens to true success, it requires hard efforts.

Thinking is a business of itself. It cannot be done while engaged in some game or play or telling foolish stories, or reading novels or going to dances or picture shows. The world today is living for pleasure and are fast forgetting God, as they did in the days of Noah. The churches of today are playing and feasting instead of praying the fasting. No wonder Satan is gaining such headway.

To improve our thinking we should rather engage in conversation with those more intelligent than ourselves and by reading good books, silent meditation alone with God in secret prayer, association with God's children, reading often in the Bible, all goes to increase our thinking power and make us strong in the Lord.

Deep thinking is not always pleasant but sometimes difficult and painful. We accomplish our ambitions only by hard struggles and continual efforts and patience and prayer. It is said that not one in a million includes important processes of human life and yet it is the only important process. Out of your own praying, thinking and meditating will come anything of which you are capable. Out of no thinking, praying and meditating comes nothing but routine. Dear Brother and Sister, let us pray more, think more, on the word of God, read more good books and papers and tracts and above all the word of God.

Let us fast more and feast less and our reward will be great and we shall be the children of the most high. Thank God for the great thinkers in the church who are led by the Spirit of Christ.

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

TRINE IMMERSION, THE FORM

J. H. MOORE

We have seen that immersion is the baptism taught in the New Testament, and now it is in order to consider the form embodied, by the Founder of the church, in the baptismal formula, which he gave to his apostles just before he took his departure from the earth. There is a form for all the doctrines taught by Christ, and in Rom. 6:17 we read about obeying "from the heart the form of doctrine" delivered unto the saints. It is not only the doctrine that must be respected, but the form as well.

The form of baptism is set forth in the baptismal formula, as recorded in Matt. 28:19, reading thus in the Revised Version: "Go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Since there are three Persons in the Trinity, as indicated in the formula, and since each one is to be duly honored in the baptismal ceremony, it follows that there should be three actions in the performance of the rite, the three actions symbolizing the three Persons of the Godhead. If there were but one person named in the formula, then but one action would be required, but since there are three names and the baptism is to be into each name, there must, of necessity, be three actions, in order that the demands of the formula may be complied with.

The meaning of the formula is very forcibly presented in the following paraphrasing by Alexander Campbell: "This is a purely Christian institution; not of Moses or the prophets; hence the formula is a perfectly original and unprecedented institution.

There had been washings, cleansings and purifyings among the Jews, Samaritans and Gentiles, by various authorities and enactments; but not one like this: 'Into the name of the Father, and into the name of the Son, and into the name of the Holy Spirit.' " — American Christian Revision, Vol. X, No. 39. Also "Quinter and McConnell Debate," page 61.

To baptize "into the name of the Father, and into the name of the Son, and into the name of the Holy Spirit," — and this is certainly the meaning of the formula, — can mean nothing short of a threefold immersion. A careful reading of the formula, as it stands in the Revised Version, placing the emphasis on the and, where it properly belongs, also brings out the idea very clearly, — "Baptizing them into the name Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." There is probably no better way of emphasizing the trine action, which the formula was evidently meant to teach.

In John 19:19, R.V., will be found a sentence very much like the baptismal formula in construction, reading thus: "And it (the title) was written in Hebrew, and in Latin, and in Greek." That Pilate had to write three times, in order to place the title in the three languages named, is self-evident. The very construction of the sentence shows this. Now, if Pilate had to write three times, in order to write the title in Hebrew, and in Latin, and in Greek, — and he surely did, — then it certainly follows that one must dip his candidate three times, in order to baptize him "into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." From this conclusion there is no logical escape.

As the closing paragraph of this chapter, we offer the following, which, in the estimation of not a few, is looked upon as a clincher: During a public discussion on the form of baptism, one of the disputants passed a copy of the New Testament to the judge of a court, who happened to be present, and asked him to write his name in the book of Matthew, and of Mark, and of Luke. The Book being returned to the speaker, the judge was asked how often he had written his name. He answered, "Three times." "Then," said the speaker, "if the judge could not write his name in the book of Matthew, and of Mark, and of Luke, without writing three times, pray tell me, how one can baptize 'into the name of Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost,' without dipping his candidate three times?"



Give benefit of doubt, until the truth is fully out.

NEW ITEMS**THANK YOU**

Bill and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Dunkard Brethren Church for all their love, support, prayers, cards and money which were sent our way during Bill's illness.

We certainly appreciated all the thoughtfulness toward us.

We can only say "Thank you", but may God richly bless you.

In Christian Love,
Bill and Marla Eby

OBITUARY**MARY JANE REED**

Sister Mary Jane (Jameson) Reed, age 90, of Dallas Center, Iowa, died February 12, 1987, at the hospital in Marshall, Missouri. She was born January 28, 1897, in Greenbriar County, West Virginia, the daughter of Sandy and Annie (Brown) Jameson. Mary was a school teacher before her marriage to William Sherman Reed on January 17, 1917 at her parent's farm home near Renick, West Virginia.

After their marriage, they moved to Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Canada where her husband worked as a well driller for a year. They moved to central Illinois where she faithfully served her minister, farmer husband. To this union eleven children were born.

They moved to Iowa in 1943 and continued on the farm at Ankeny and Wauke. They retired in Dallas Center in 1957. For the past year she had made her home with her daughter at Malta Bend, Missouri.

Survivors include seven sons and three daughters: Elbert, Des Moines, Iowa; Lloyd, Bethel, Pennsylvania; Millard, Manteca, California; Ray, Dallas Center, Iowa; William, Quinter, Kansas; John, Des Moines, Iowa; Fae Kasza, Malta Bend, Missouri; Edna Wertz, McClave, Colorado; Oty, Montrose, Colorado; and Ruth Halde-man, Adel, Iowa; forty-three grandchildren, seventy-six great grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband; oldest son, Kyle, two brothers, three sisters, one grandchild, two great grandchildren, and one daughter-in-law. She was a charter member of the Dunkard Brethren Church at Astoria, Illinois, and remained faithful to the church until her death.

She was quite active in the missionary work of the church, serving with her husband on numerous missionary journeys in southern states and to the Dunkard Brethren Navajo Indian Mission in Cuba, New Mexico.

Funeral services were held February 15, 1987, at the Dallas Center Dunkard Brethren Church conducted by Brethren Fred Pifer, Alvin Chupp and James Meyers. Interment was in the Brethren Cemetery.

SOME TIME WE'LL UNDERSTAND

Not now, but in the coming years,
It may be in the better land,
We'll read the meaning of our tears,
And there, sometime, we'll understand.

We'll catch the broken thread again,
And finish what we here began;
Heaven will the mysteries explain,
And then, ah, then we'll understand.

We'll know why clouds instead of sun
Were over many a cherished plan.
Why song has ceased when scarce begun;
'Tis there, sometime, we'll understand.

Why what we long for most of all,
Eludes so oft our eager hand;
Why hopes are crushed and castles fall,
Up there, sometime, we'll understand.

God knows the way, He holds the key,
He guides with unerring hand;
Some time with tearless eyes we'll see;
Yes, there, up there, we'll understand.

Then trust in God thro' all the days;
Fear not, for He doth hold thy hand;
Though dark thy way, still sing and praise,
Some time, some time, we'll understand.



Gentle words fall lightly, but they have great weight.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JUNE 1987

June 7 — The wisdom of God — I Cor. 2:1-16

1. How do we obtain wisdom? Job 28:28, Matt. 7:24.
2. How do we understand the difference between worldly wisdom and Spiritual wisdom? James 3:17.

June 14 — Building Upon the Foundation — I Cor. 3:1-12

1. What is the building referred to in verse 10?
2. Why is it important that we use the right material? Verse 13.

June 21 — Fathers Day - Luke 1:57-80.

1. What reason did the friends have for wanting him called Zacharias? Verse 59.
2. What reason did the Father have for asking for paper to write on? Verse 63.

June 28 — Temperance — Titus 2:1-15.

1. What is temperance?
2. Can we engage in sin as long as we are temperate in what we do?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JUNE 1987

June 7 — The Good Seed — Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43.

1. Who is the sower of the good seed? What is the seed?
2. Who are the tares? Who sows them? Who will do the reaping?

June 14 — Our Understanding — I Cor. 2:1-16.

1. How do we get understanding? Where does it come from?
2. Can the world receive understanding?

June 21 - Father's Day — Gen. 37:1-4, Job 1:1-5, Mark 5:21-23, 35-43.

1. Why did Jacob love Joseph more than his other brothers?
2. Why did Job offer burnt offerings for his children?

June 28 — Temperance — Luke 1:13-17, Rom. 14:14-20, John 3:9-13.

1. What is temperance? How can the world tell if we are temperate?
2. In James 3:9-13 the tongue is mentioned. Are we to be temperate with our tongues?

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BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

LET ME GROW

"Lord, I humbly come to thee,
Bowing now before thy throne,
I need your loving hand to guide —
Nothing can I do alone.

May I be submissive, Lord,
Not usurp authority,
Nor to be provocative -
I beg with sincerity.

Lord, you know how I desire
To be purer in my mind,
So help me now to show forth
Your quiet spirit divine.

Each day draw me closer Home,
Each day let me grow in grace,
All my thanks and praise I give
Hoping soon to see Thy face."

- Sister Irene Stout
R. 1 Box 160, Wabash, IN 46992

METAMORPHOSIS

We all enjoy butterflies. Perhaps they are more important to us now as population, pollution and pesticides have decreased their numbers. It is a beautiful sight to see them gliding through the air. Not only do butterflies add beauty to our surroundings but they are helpful in controlling other insects. The butterfly's life span lasts from a few days to nearly a year.

The stages of the adult butterfly's development are interesting. From the egg comes the caterpillar which in turn becomes a cocoon which produces the full grown butterfly. It is hard to believe that the beautiful butterfly flying about was once a caterpillar crawling about. The caterpillar which is ugly goes through a change in the cocoon stage that results in the adult butterfly. This change is called a metamorphosis. This metamorphosis is a total change in outward and inward form. The beginning creature is very little like the final creature. Not only is there a great change in appearance but in usefulness. The caterpillar when destructive of plants, invites its own destruction but after being changed it becomes useful as well as ornamental.

"Metamorphosis" is a Greek word which means to change from one form to another. It is a word found in the New Testament to describe a change made in appearance and in Spiritual inner direction.

"Metamorphosis" is used to describe the transfiguration of Jesus. There was a wonderful change in His bodily appearance before His apostles. His body was glorified becoming whiter and brighter than His usual earthly appearance. It struck awe in the hearts and minds of those viewing this special sight. They were

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further awed by the words of the Father, "This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased, hear ye Him." This glimpse of His Heavenly glory should inspire us to want to hear and obey Him.

Not only does metamorphosis speak of a change in outward appearance but also of a change within. II Cor. 3:18 speaks of a change that comes through the Holy Spirit's direction. When we clearly behold Christ we are changed into an imitation of Him. We become like Him. Although He is the only begotten Son of God, through Him we may become adoptive sons of God. As adoptive sons we are to show forth the characteristics of Christ in our lives. We should reflect His ways through our lives. There must be this inward change if we are to live a Christian life.

In Rom. 12:2, we are told to not be conformed to the world around us. We can not live the same life style as those around us who follow the dictates of Satan. We must be conformed to Christ but unconformed to the surrounding world's lifestyle. We can only have this nonconformity if we have been transformed. This transformation is a metamorphosis. It is a transformation of our thinking and emotions. When the inward man is transformed there will be a corresponding change in the outward appearance and actions.

By the renewing or changing of the mind, there will be a desire to do those things that may seem odd and peculiar to the world about us but will seem reasonable to us for we will have the mind of Christ. The mind of Christ is the mind obedient to the will of God. As the temple of God our body will reflect the will of God being wrought inwardly and outwardly.

This Spiritual metamorphosis is comparable to the change made in the butterfly coming from the caterpillar. It is a change from being destructive to becoming useful. There is an accompanying change in appearance. The butterfly looks far different than the caterpillar. The Christian must look alot different from the surrounding world's ideals of beauty. The Christian's life can no longer be self-centered but centered upon Christ which will produce actions that will help others.

The Christian's metamorphosis must be twofold. It is inward and outward. One without the other is foundationless and unproductive. If there is a change in outward appearance without an inward change, it will be superficial and likely will not long endure. It will be false. An inward change without an outward change, that reflects it, will be shallow and soon snuffed out. Both changes must be made, it is the Christian's transformation. To emphasize either one at the expense of the other is to do a disservice to the Gospel of Christ.

The caterpillar makes a great change to become a butterfly, but change it must. Have you had your metamorphosis?

A NOBODY FOR JESUS

Sometimes in this life, the simple tasks go begging for someone to do them. No one wants a thankless job. Yet there are always many little things to do, things which are more time-consuming than exciting. The little jobs may not seem important, but when they are left undone, the neglect is obvious. Even some big jobs don't seem very important, but someone must do them. Not everyone can have a so-called important job.

Christian living brings with it many simple tasks too. Whether they seem important or not, Jesus expects us to be faithful in the little things as well as the big things. We are called to be servants, not celebrities. We are to be faithful, but not necessarily famous. Jesus was faithful in what God expected of Him and we need to be faithful also.

"Whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." Matt. 20:26-28.

These verses make it very plain that the way up is down. Christian people become great by being a servant, not by doing great things. A servant is at the bottom in the chain of command, and he does what someone else wants him to do. As Christian people, we serve the Lord, doing what He wants us to. Being a servant may seem like a nobody's job, but being a "nobody" for Jesus makes us a somebody!

Jesus Himself was a servant. He came to minister to our needs, and to give His life to redeem us. Considering the position Jesus had in Heaven, He really became a "nobody" on this earth. He lived very simply, getting along with far less than most of us. His main concern was to help others, not to make a name for Himself. Jesus was given the task of redeeming mankind, not a desirable position, but He did it for us. What will you now do for Him?

In the parable of the talents, Matt. 25:14-30, each man employed as a servant was given something to do. The responsibilities were passed out according to their abilities. No one was given a job too big to handle. The Lord of those servants expected them to continue to serve him, even while he was gone, and two of them did so. The third man had a different attitude. His job wasn't very big, but he didn't even do that much! He just did what was given to him.

He apparently didn't see any value in being a nobody for his master.

This unprofitable servant made lots of excuses for his laziness, but it just got him in more trouble. We generally have the same problem when we don't do what we are supposed to. Our excuses won't relieve us of our responsibilities either, not even in the "nobody" jobs. The man in the parable had an opportunity to serve, but he apparently didn't want the responsibility. His neglect hindered his master's cause, just as we hinder the cause of Christ when we neglect to serve as He has directed.

The Psalmist said, "I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness." Psa. 84:10. Being a doorkeeper is not a high position, but it is better than living in sin. It is better than doing nothing for our Lord, and only living to please one's self. The measure of a Christian is not how lofty his position is, but how faithful he is in it. Whether you are a somebody for Jesus, or a nobody, the important thing is to be faithful in carrying out His will in your life.

"And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward." Matt. 10:42. No matter how small the deed, God notices it. No matter how lowly the task, He is pleased when you do it well. Whenever an opportunity comes, do what you can and God will bless you.

"And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matt. 25:40. You won't get your name in the paper for doing little things to help others, but Jesus will see what you do. Your reward is to come from Him, not from mankind, and you need to seek His will for your life. He may give you small assignments to test your faithfulness, following with greater responsibility as your faithfulness increases. He wants you to glorify Him, not yourself. "He that is least among you all, the same shall be great." Luke 9:48. Are you a nobody for Jesus?

Sister Eileen Broadwater

THE VICTORIOUS RESURRECTION

When Christ was here on earth He said that three days after His death He would rise again. His enemies remembered this, so after His death on the cross when He was laid in the tomb, a large stone was laid to close the entrance of the tomb and soldiers were set to watch to make sure His body would stay in the tomb.

The power of God was manifested and the soldiers became as dead men and the stone was rolled away and:

... Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes;
He arose a victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever with His saints to reign...

His resurrection was a blessing and a victory for all mankind who accept His plan of salvation. An angel of the Lord appeared at the tomb and said to those who came there, "Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here he is risen."

When He was here on earth He taught by example and precept that we should do good. He did much for the comfort and consolation of the ill and helpless. He taught love and sharing in the bearing of burdens. He performed miracles of healing and raised the dead to life. After He did much good for others He suffered the cruel death on the cross. Jesus said when He was here, "I am the resurrection and the life." "No man cometh unto the father, but by me." He proved to have that power.

He taught blessed are the poor in spirit, they that mourn, the meek, those that hunger and thirst after righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, and the peacemakers and those that are persecuted for righteousness sake for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. The Apostle Paul said, "... that I might know Him and the power of His resurrection." As in Adam all die even so in Christ shall all be made alive. Christ said, "He that heareth my words and believeth on him that sent me hath everlasting life and shall not come unto condemnation but is passed unto life. Verily I say unto you the power is coming and now is when the dead shall hear his voice of the son of God and they that hear shall live."

There shall be a resurrection of the just and the unjust. For the just a victorious resurrection into the glorious place that John the Revelator reveals to us. He also describes the place prepared for the unrighteous. Christ has gone to prepare a place. Where He is we may be also.

Also He is coming again to receive His faithful servants. Enoch prophesied, "... behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousand of his saints to execute judgment upon all." The Apostles spoke of our Lord Jesus Christ and said in the last time there shall be mockers walking after their ungodly lusts. John the Revelator tells us of the reaction of the unprepared, who will try to hide themselves from the appearance of our Saviour at His second coming. It will be a dreadful day for those who have failed to wash their robes and make them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Here in this world many people are laboring and claiming

blessings and victories that in time to come will benefit them nothing. The Apostle Paul in his labor for Christ met with great hardships in his fight for the victorious Jesus. Though he met with much evil opposition he never became discouraged but pressed onward and forward toward the blessed victory that some day would be his.

We are to seek and set our affections on things that are above the perishing things of this world. Are we partaking of the bread of Spiritual life and living water that we will never hunger or thirst? Jesus said he that cometh to me shall never hunger and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. The Apostle Paul said in his time many who claimed to be Christ's followers were in reality His enemies.

Many evil victories are won today. People are told and pressed to believe the untruth that there is no victory after this life is over. Let us accept the plan of salvation through Christ our Saviour that after the end of this life on earth we can look forward to the victorious resurrection. We need all the fruits of the spirit. Obey all the commandments of Christ our Saviour for the victorious resurrection to spend the ceaseless ages of eternity with Him.

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ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

MARRIAGE

Part 4

THE WIFE. The Bible tells us that in marriage, the couples become "one flesh." This means that there is a commonality of feelings, one way of thinking, one way of setting goals. You do not become each other. You do not lose your identity but through your unitedness, you complete each other.

Wives are to be "subject to your own husband as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, AS Christ is head of the church." How are we subject to the Lord? Freely, through love for Him. Submission, then, is voluntary. You desire to submit out of love you give to him.

Proverbs 31:10-12 teaches us: "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil." From the beginning (Gen. 2:18) woman was conceived as the gift to man.

She was to be a companion, a friend, an helpmeet and "to do him good all the days of her life."

It is God who brings the woman to the man. (Gen. 2:22) God's providence connects you to the right one for you. It is through your sin and confusion that this plan is thwarted. What sometimes seems to be chance or circumstance is definitely not that if you are a child of God. When God settles the decision for marriage in your heart, it is a RIGHT decision.

The wife is admonished to be gentle and meek and in doing this, she will open fully her wisdom to the husband and will complement him in his thinking and actions.

Gen. 3:16 indicates that the desire of the wife would be to the husband and he would rule over her. This is God's word and obviously does not fit the teaching of an irreverent, humanistic society. This indicates that there is a reverence involved. But it does show a beautiful cooperation of the couple and a liberation in God's way. It never indicates oppression but rather becomes a loving relationship to give and take under the headship system created by God. You become co-heirs, co-partners with the Creator. Self-advantage and personal advancement is gone and you lose yourself in your husband and in God's will for your life. Your husband is not THE LORD, but you relate to him as to the Lord, voluntarily and lovingly giving, self-sacrificing, trusting and risking all that you are in faith that your life might be within the will of God.

Too many women today have a reticence to submit to their husbands due to the fear of being somehow diminished or swallowed up in his life. This submission, however, does not wipe out individuality but offers an opportunity to the couple to complement each other in a unique God given way and enables the Lord to bring a new dimension of life to each one.

Your role, in being submitted and committed to your husband, fills an important place in your happiness and in the fulfillment of the marriage relationship. The "wonder-woman" of Proverbs 31 was engaged in planting, making clothing for her family, preparing food for the household, delivering handcrafted goods to merchants, ministering to the needy, was strong, courageous, wise, kind and blessed by her children... whom she obviously had not neglected through all of this activity. Now, is that a boring life? She was fulfilled in those things which God had ordained for her. Life was exciting with a potential for expression in unlimited directions. And to top it all, this good wife was simply an extension of her husband. But what was the prerequisite here? She feared the Lord and was in obedience to the perfect order of the almighty God.

Real freedom is not just doing what one pleases to do. In the world today, it seems to mean doing your own thing... doing what YOU want to do, going where YOU want to go, being what YOU want to be. God says, to go where I want you to go, be what I want you to be, to do what I want you to do. As you express His will for your life, you will be operating under the principles that will allow you real freedom and happiness in your life. This illustrates the nature of Jesus, the dying self, the loss of life for His sake. And... it is beautiful.

Have you considered that the "needy" in your life might well be your husband... your family? This might come as a stark revelation but those who have been entrusted to your care give you a unique opportunity to fulfill the nurturing of those in need. Yes, you will have activities... fellowship, youth activities, Sunday school, personal study, community service... but your first response is to your husband. Your priorities must first be ordered to care for your husband (and family) and then care for the other parts of your life and ministry. The Lord has established an holy order for multiplying and distributing blessings to the wife and as energies and priorities are made by His will, true and lasting fulfillment will be achieved. The Lord will multiply the offering of your life to overflow the basket.

Always remember this. You are the ONLY wife God has called and provided for your husband and you are uniquely and irreplaceably important to him. Invest your life in him and in the home rather than outside the home. Launch out in faith against the heretical mis-teachings of our society. Be complete and fulfilled... God's way.

Brother Len Wertz

SIXTY YEARS AGO

June 1, 1927

YE ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

(Matthew 5:14)

R. R. Shroyer

When the good man is spoken of in the scriptures the highest, the most valuable objects are used to symbolize him. He is spoken of as a palm tree, as a cedar of Lebanon, but when Jesus set forth his opinion of his disciples to all ages, he uses no mean figures, but the very highest. In the scriptures or rather our subject text speaks of them as the light of the world.

What does the statement suggest? First it is full of suggestions as to the character of their life.

It is Christ like. We are not to think the light of a Christian is underived, that it is in him independent of any source outside, as the light of our sun is independent of the light of other suns. The Christian's light is not his own. It is derived from Jesus who is the great source of all Spiritual light among men. The disciple of Jesus should be looked upon as a reflector of the light that Jesus shines in him. Then the light of the disciple is the same as the light of the Master. The real Christian is then a reflection of the character of Christ. His life harmonizes with the life of the Lord. This is living on a high plane. It is living a high life. So many so-called Christians today are accepting a low standard of Christian conduct, losing sight of the real nature of the Christian life and its high character. It should ever be borne in mind that the true disciple of Jesus is in character like his Lord. Paul said for me to live is Christ.

Light is self evidencing. Where light exists it shows itself. God said let there be light and its existence was at once evidence by shining.

It is just so with Christian light. It shines wherever it goes. It is not a secret something whose existence is whispered but not seen, where it does not shine it does not exist. The Christian life is public as well as private. It shines in the home. In the sanctuary. It shines in the social walks, and in the pursuits of business. It shines everywhere the Christian goes. It requires no effort for light to shine. It shines on mountains and seas. It enters the home of the pauper as well as in the palace of the king. So it is with the Christian. His light requires no effort to shine. It is not hard to live out the life of Christ, if it is within.

Light is pure — because this is the character of light that it is used to symbolize the highest beings and truths.

God himself is light. God's word is light.

Light is the thing in our world which retains its glorious nature, notwithstanding that it comes into contact with the vile and impure. Fire and water and wind do not escape contamination. Water may come rippling with celestial purity down the mountain side, but it cannot touch the unclean without partaking of its nature. It may wash the foul garment clean, but it retains for a time the foulness. The wind may carry with it the poison of the plague. Fire may evaporate impurities that may cause death wherever such vapors come, but light cannot be contaminated. As pure as when in the morning it gilds the mountain peaks, those towers of the world, is it at the time of the sun's setting though it has in the meantime visited

dens of vice, scenes of pollution, the gutter and the cess pool — yet it carries no disease on its wings. It keeps itself clean of all contagion. So the light of the Christian is pure.

It is Christ like and cannot be contaminated. Jesus was spotless, and the true Christian is undefiled by his environment. His character is not a mixture of worldliness and Godliness.

Light is democratic. Light is no respecter of persons. It has as much regard for one man as for another. He will give as much of his light to the poor man, as to the rich. He will hasten with his cheering beams to the sick in the dug out as to the royal patient who sighs for his appearance. This is also true of the Christian. He is no respecter of persons. The Christian manifests the Spirit of his Lord, and he was the friend of all men. The Christian like his Lord cares for his fellow man because he is a man.

Light is independent.

Nothing can conspire among the worlds of space to put out the light of the sun. It matters not what may be the state of our atmosphere, or what conditions of nations whether in peace or war or what the phenomena of the sky, or earth, the sun cannot be affected. It shines serenely on. This is true of the Christian light. It is independent. It matters not what men may say or do against it, they cannot put it out. They cannot extinguish it in the soul. They burned the Christians at the stake, and tortured the followers of Jesus but their light shone on. The followers of Jesus therefore are of great importance to the world. It is not said that Christians are lights in the world, but, the light of the world.

Christians form the Spiritual sun on earth, each having his own part in the shining. Jesus puts his disciples in a most conspicuous place in relation to earth's peoples. There have been many lights among men. Intellectual lights, social lights, religious lights, but Jesus because of their importance to the race puts his true followers above them all. He says of them, they are the light of the world.

They dispel darkness.

There is the darkness of ignorance regarding God and man's relation to him. There is much darkness as to how men should live. There is wide spread ignorance as to life's true aim.

The Christian's light dispels this darkness. Christians tell men about God and their relation to him through sin. They declare to them the way of Salvation. They tell men that life is for noble purpose, not to get fame, but to become Christians.

Light is attractive. Light attracts. How eagerly do men and women watch for its coming in the regions where winter is long, and what delight when the sun begins to appear. So also is

attractive the Christian life, men love to behold it. Its influence on men in early days was one of the facts that caused religion to spread so rapidly. Men do admire goodness. There is nothing so lovely as a truly Christian life. Surely the real Christians are of great importance in the world. Their testimony, their teaching and their Godly conduct is of great value.

The world is in need of their light. Christ expects his disciples to shine in your homes, in their business walks, in the slums and the dwelling of the civilized. Christ is depending on the light of Christian teaching, testimony and living to lead men to see their need of salvation of their souls. So may all who claim to be the people of God let their light shine.

BINDING UP WOUNDS

Luke 10:33-34 "But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, and went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him."

All Bible readers will immediately recognize the opening verses as being part of the parable of the Good Samaritan. This portion of scripture has been the text for many sermons and articles. Many interpretations and applications have come forth in exhortations and articles. We are aware of the danger of stretching the application of a portion of scripture beyond acceptable limits. We pray that we will not do so as we share what we feel the Holy Spirit has given us.

We believe there are three areas where God has called the Church to be active in binding up wounds. The first of these is a literal interpretation and application of the parable of the Good Samaritan. We believe we should support those of the medical profession who give of their time to go to foreign lands and do medical missionary work. We also believe God is pleased with the Church having part in the care of the elderly. On a more personal basis, we believe that we should be willing to give whatever aid we can to anyone needing medical attention. In our day of suing for almost anything the temptation may be great to "pass over on the other side."

The second area where we believe God is calling the Church to bind up wounds is the area of relationships. While we reject the teaching that Jesus Christ shed His blood on the cross to heal relationships, we do recognize the need of a healing in this area. There is a need of healing between local congregations. All too often even those of the same denomination are at odds with one

another. This does not mean we do not voice our concern about trends in the earthly church that we see to be contrary to Holy Scripture. But it means that we do so in a loving manner that seeks reconciliation rather than division. There is often divisions within a local assembly. The Apostle Paul addressed this problem in his writings. He said such things should not be. Can we love a brother or sister in the Lord enough to be willing to lay our life down for them if we cannot even agree on scriptural interpretation? Our goal should be to be "Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4:3) In Ephesians 4:13 Paul tells us that the leadership and laity of the Church should work together "till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God,..." This sounds far different to us from the popular teaching that God made us each an individual and thus we each have our own likes and dislikes which we bring into our community of faith. Salvation is a very personal matter between an individual and his or her Lord. Each of us must repent of our sins and allow the Holy Spirit to clean up our lives. The Bible also teaches the necessity of water baptism. We repeat, salvation is a very personal matter. But it becomes a communal affair as we follow our Lord in obedience. We will avoid the very controversial area of just who will enter into the glories of Heaven. But we will state that scriptural healing of a relationship is not recognizing the right of an individual to do as he or she feels is right for himself. Rather it is praying for the Holy Spirit to lead us all into truth in "grey" areas and to be willing to be faithful in clear scriptural instructions. We realize in saying this that there is a wide range of interpretation within the earthly church making very little of scripture absolute in their eyes. An example of this was the answer to an individual's question regarding feet washing in a "prophecy" magazine. The editor's reply was that in our society the washing of feet, literally, was as much out of place as the holy kiss! It proved to us once again how unwilling most that call themselves Christians are to follow Holy Scripture. Many have let worldly society interpret the scriptures for them! As someone has wisely said, "The church is becoming very worldly and the world is becoming very churchy." This brings us to our last point.

A third area where we believe God is calling the Church to bind up wounds is in the spiritual area. We must be careful that we do not fall into the trap of cultic "spiritual healing." This teaching is heavily based on the false teaching of "self-love." II Peter 2:24 tells us "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness, by whose stripes ye were healed." The Church is called to proclaim the truth of salvation through the shed blood of Christ. We will not take the

space to go into detail, but we see that we are not only "dead to sins," but that we should "live unto righteousness." We must also remember that a part of the body that is cancerous or otherwise "dead," must be cut off as painful as this is. God can raise the dead but there is no help in binding up wounds in this case. However, within the local congregation we should seek to bind up the wounds of error that have blinded some individuals. If they continue in their error they will "bleed to death."

God desires for the Church to be a loving fellowship. We should be willing to help to bear one another's burdens. Let us never become so self righteous that we fail to bind up the wounds that we come into contact with. If God treated us the same as we often treat others we would be in a terrible fix. God never excuses sin but he gives us a choice to repent. We should also remember if we had to be "perfect" (of our own righteousness) Heaven would be empty except for the Trinity and the faithful angels.

James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

THE COMMUNION OF THE CUP OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Mark 14:32, Luke 22:20, I Cor. 11:25

The communion of the cup of the New Testament, is a symbol of the shed blood of Christ and is equally important with the bread, which represents his broken body. This is the last of the three sacraments of the Communion Service.

The blood is the life-giving fluid of the body. The unfermented grape juice is used to represent Christ's shed blood. If fermented or intoxicating wine would be used it would be the same as leavened bread and could not properly represent the blood of the sinless Son of God.

Jesus said, "This cup is the New Testament in my blood; this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me." I Cor. 11:25. He has also commanded us to drink His blood that we may have life in us and thus have the promise of eternal life.

After the 19th chapter of John is read, the officiating minister asks God's blessing upon this cup that it may be consecrated from a common use to a sacred emblem, representing the shed blood of Christ.

He then pours the grape juice into two glasses from the large pitcher. He passes one glass to the brethren's table and one to the

sister's table, saying, "This cup of the New Testament is the communion of the blood of Christ."

Each person takes a sip from the glass and repeats the same words as they pass the glass on to the next person. Usually a hymn is sung at this time. The songs that are frequently sung are the old time favorites, "Alas and Did My Savior Bleed," "Tis Midnight on Olives Brow," or "My Jesus I Love Thee."

When we take a portion of this fruit of the vine, we renew our pledge that we believe that Jesus' blood has cleansed us from sin. Those who continue to live faithful, obeying Christ's commands and teaching as given in the Bible, will continue to have the assurance of eternal life. This service strengthens our faith.

Sister Maxine Surbey

OBITUARY

MARY REED

Mary Naomi (Light) Reed, 67, of Minburn, Iowa, died of cancer on May 4, 1987 at Iowa Lutheran Hospital in Des Moines, Iowa. Her body has been donated to science.

She was born October 1, 1919 in Clarence, Iowa, the daughter of Jacob Roy and Bertha Jane Light. She graduated from Colo High School in 1936. In 1937, Mary was baptized into the Dunkard Brethren Church to which she dedicated a lifetime of untiring service. She was married to Kyle T. Reed on May 26, 1946. In 1947 she graduated from Iowa Lutheran Hospital as a registered nurse and joined Kyle in China, where they completed three years of relief work with the Mennonite Central Committee. In 1949 they moved to Minburn, Iowa to raise their family. Mary served as school nurse at Central Dallas in Minburn from 1964 to 1966. She assisted Kyle in his business, Farm-El Services, from 1965 to 1983. She also found time to care for her mother and mother-in-law in her home as the need arose. The past seven years were highlighted by the young children in the community that she babysat for.

Mary is preceded in death by her mother, father, husband, a son, her mother-in-law, father-in-law, and a sister-in-law. Survivors include a son, Howard, of Tulsa, Oklahoma; five daughters, Mary Jane Swihart, of Quinter, Kansas; Doris Hemphill of McClave, Colorado; Margaret Ratcliff, of New Sharon, Iowa; Myrna Palmer, of Tulsa, Oklahoma and Dorothy Hartley, of Springfield, Missouri; a brother, John Light of Minburn; and six grandchildren.

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BIBLE MONITOR

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JUNE 15, 1987

NO. 12

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

WHO WILL FOLLOW JESUS?

Who will follow Jesus, Standing for the right,
Holding up His banner In the thickest fight?
List'ning for His orders, Ready to obey,
Who will follow Jesus, Serving Him today?

Who will follow Jesus In life's busy ways,
Working for the Master, Giving Him the praise;
Earnest in His vineyard, Honoring His laws,
Faithful to His counsel, Watchful for His cause?

Who will follow Jesus; When the tempter charms,
Fleeing, then, for safety To the Savior's arms;
Trusting in His mercy, Trusting in His pow'r,
Seeking fresh renewals Of His grace each hour?

Who will follow Jesus In His work of love,
Leading others to Him, Lifting prayers above?
Courage, faithful servant! In His work we see,
On our side forever Will this Savior be.

E. E. Hewitt

PUT YE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

There is quite a question in many people's minds about what they will wear. It is important to them that their clothes reflect the latest fashion. They want to be known as followers of the very latest style. The cut of the clothes is more important than whether they are functional or not.

Adam and Eve could dwell in the Garden of Eden naked, without shame or guilt. After they became sinners clothes became necessary. Their first efforts at covering their nakedness with fig leaves are comparable with modern men and women's attempts at partial covering of their nakedness. They were satisfied with their attempt but God wasn't. The more complete covering afforded by the animal skin was God's idea of clothing.

It cost the life of the animal giving up its skin, giving Adam and Eve and all their descendants a picture of the needful sacrifice of Christ to cover sin. None can escape the teaching of the necessity of a blood sacrifice. Cain was guilty of bringing a dead sacrifice but he had no excuse, for Adam and Eve had been clothed by the blood sacrifice which met God's requirement.

Many today are more interested in wearing fig leaves than the attire designed and approved by God. God wanted Adam and Eve to wear substantial clothing that would be modest and provide warmth and protection for the body. Clothing might vary some according to climatic conditions but it still must be modest to warrant God's approval.

Adam and Eve were satisfied with their fig leaves. Today people are not only satisfied with fig leaves for their physical clothing but

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also for their spiritual clothing. They are satisfied with man made and approved means of Christianity. They do not want to be associated with anything so cruel and bloody as the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross for their sins. They want instead to use "fig leaf" methods to cover their sins. Fig leaves did not properly cover Adam and Eve and "fig leaf" methods of salvation will not succeed either.

Anything less than the total acceptance of the substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus Christ the Son of God on Calvary and His resurrection is but "fig leaf" religion. The Bible describes the necessary belief and action needed to be covered by the sacrifice of Christ. To follow any other plan will be to lose the desired result. While there is a will to be rescued from sin and to gain an eternal abode with God, just any method to obtain it will not suffice. The method must be God's Way. Not all clothes, though stylish and high in public opinion, are suitable or meet God's approval.

Putting on clothes we cover ourselves. The blemishes and unsightly areas are covered when clothed. The putting on of Christ, Spiritually, covers the blemishes and unsightly places in our lives. Our sins, which are common to all men, must be covered by a perfect sacrifice. Jesus is the only perfect sacrifice available to us. Putting Him on involves the heart and mind's acceptance of the need of His sacrifice and the willingness to let Him be that sacrifice rather than trying to contrive some other "fig leaf" way. There is a need for a turning away from sin. Not only must there be a sorrow for getting caught in it but in the grief it causes God. Baptism symbolically brings the cleansing away of the old sins and readies the applicant for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. With the coming of the Spirit, Christ is put on. We become little imitators of Him. Our thoughts and actions must then reflect the mind and actions of Jesus. Putting on the Lord Jesus intimates that He is now the Master of our lives. A lord has total supervision of his servants. They are bound to serve as he directs. The Lord Jesus should have the same total rule over our lives. His rule should be as thorough as the covering afforded by our clothes. If we have only Spiritual "fig leaves" then His control over us will only be minimal and we will be putting ourselves in danger.

Putting on the Lord Jesus Christ means to not make provision for fleshly desires. We are tempted and yield to carnal desires all too readily without contriving ways of fulfilling these fleshly desires. As putting on Christ relates to our physical dress, it would be wise to consider if the clothing we wish to wear would be the type and style of clothing that Jesus would wear. If we have put on Jesus, then whatever we wear is what we would consider that Jesus would wear.

Have you put on the Lord Jesus Christ? Then dress, act and think like you have. Don't be caught in a fig leaf like Adam and Eve.

A FATHER'S LOVE

"My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live." Mark 5:23. This plea for help came from Jairus, one of the rulers of the synagogue. He was an important man, but he was helpless in this crisis. He realized that his daughter needed help which man could not give, and he pleaded with Jesus for help. Jesus honored his request and restored this girl to life and health.

Jairus was really concerned about his daughter and he didn't let public opinion keep him from Jesus. As you know, Jesus was not popular with the Pharisees and such like. They found fault with Jesus and His followers, and Jairus was surely at risk of being rebuked, if not something worse. Even so, his love for his child moved him to do what was best for her regardless of what others may have thought.

We hear alot about a mother's love and its far-reaching effect, but a father's love is important also. He may express it differently, but when a father loves his children, it will be revealed in one way or another. It may be in something as simple as fixing a broken toy, or as difficult as watching over a very sick child. Love is revealed when a father properly disciplines his children, when he plays with them or shares his faith in God with them. His entire relationship with his child reveals the depth of his love.

Sometimes a father's love is revealed when he lets a child go. A son or daughter may foolishly insist on freedom before the maturity is there to handle it. Father is on the spot, and may not want to release his child. However, he may do so to teach the child a lesson. The prodigal son is an example of this. His father no doubt knew what would happen, but allowed his son to go. This father still loved his foolish son, and was waiting for his return.

A father's love is revealed when he forgives. Luke 15:20 says, "But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him." This son had really messed things up, but his father forgave him. He didn't seek to shame and humiliate his son, but instead welcomed him with open arms. He did not cover-up the sin; he simply forgave his son.

We too have messed things up in this life. We've gone our own way, we've taken the good things in life and wasted them. We've

rejected the wise counsel given to us. But because of a father's love, our Heavenly Father's, we can be forgiven. He is waiting and will welcome us with open arms if we'll return to Him. God has already made a way for us to put our life of sin and shame behind us, and will help us to be a true child of His.

A father's love for his family gives them a basis for understanding God's love. A father's love is self-sacrificing, seeking to do what's best for his family even at his own expense. The parent-child relationship here on earth helps us understand what our relationship is to be with our Heavenly Father. When we have had a loving, caring father, we can more readily understand God's love for us. We are more willing to give our lives over to His control, knowing He has our best interest at heart. Trust in God comes to us more easily when we first have had a father to trust.

The absence of a good father-child relationship does not mean that we can never learn to trust God. But a father who forsakes or in some way mistreats his children does hinder them spiritually. If God treated us as some fathers treat their children, none of us would trust Him. Trust is basic to Christian living, and is possible because God is trustworthy. God cares for His own in love and we can be sure He will lead us in the right way.

Fathers, do you love your children? Are you worthy of the trust they place in you? God doesn't expect you to be perfect, but He does expect you to meet some basic needs. The Bible contains the guidelines; follow them, and you will be glad you did. So will your children.

Sister Eileen Broadwater

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

MARRIAGE

Part 5

THE HUSBAND. Our lives are formed and sometimes deformed by the experiences we have in early childhood. We often see wrong examples of what a husband is to be and this carries right on into our own marriage. As we would share about the dynamics of being a Godly husband, we do so prayerfully, that right values might be given to the second most important responsibility you will be given in this life... that of being a husband and father. This is topped only by your acceptance of Christ as your Saviour.

First of all, the husband needs to be dead to self. That is what God asks of all His followers. Yes, you must be devoted, a good example, gentle, kind and wise... but you must also be dead... dead

to self. A real transformation of the inner-man of the husband is desperately needed for the restoration of the Christian family today. You have a powerful opportunity to minister for God as you assume your role for Him and surprisingly that role includes the obligation of servanthood. Now being a servant doesn't sound much like being a leader but it is a necessary component of a Godly man's life. Modern psychology has persuaded men that they must be macho... have an aggressive self-image. Self "anything" takes Christ off of the throne and places you there. Your real image is that of a sinner... saved by grace. You are confident only as you walk after God and not after the flesh. (I Cor. 1:26-31)

GOD has to be first and last in the man's life in marriage. Self ambition leads to only unruly passions of the flesh... and passion is no reason for marriage or sustenance of marriage. Just look at your responsibility. If you have a wife and possibly children SUBJECT to you, you must bless their lives and surrender self in doing so. Pride and fleshly jealousy have to be put away.

Genesis 4:1 says that Adam KNEW his wife. We often see this as only in a physical way. In reality, the word "know" in the Greek means "to meet, experience and embrace." It is a word that shows a man's complete commitment to the one whom he calls his wife. It is a word of fidelity. The flesh is conquered and there is a noble and wonderful relationship experienced.

Many Christian families fall apart because the husband has not accepted the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Headship is actually a responsibility to serve. Service is a showing of greatness. (Matt. 20:26-27) The "serving" leadership role of the husband in the home is not demanding but is rather protective and enabling. A Christian husband must earn the right to be in command of his home through his submission to God.

A husband is given to bless and fulfill his wife's life. Husbands who want to quit a marriage because they "can't find happiness with THAT woman" reveal that they never understood the first concept of husbandship. Their intent was never to give but to get. Failure came not as the result of "something," then, but was there from the inception. The attempt to fulfill the wife's life does not make you a martyr who never receives anything from her. Part of fulfilling her is learning how to let her love you, which can be more humbling than giving all of the time.

You must take leadership in prayer... not to do all of it, but to promote and maintain it. The same is true with reading of the Word and meditating upon the law of God. A father, sharing family concerns and problems in prayer, becomes a great influence to children who see his love and concern for them.

The husband is the comforter... even of children. He is a mantle of protection for the family. As he walks obediently in God's wisdom, his house is built upon a rock and his wife (and children) can dwell restfully within that house.

A man's love is kind, not jealous or boastful, is not arrogant or rude, doesn't insist on its own way, is not irritable, bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (1 Cor. 13) Do you see self anywhere there? No. Unfortunately, in our shallow, materialistic culture, this kind of love is considered as unmasculine. Only in sharing the characteristic of love will a wife find security in you.

You are called in a marriage relationship to complement your wife... not to completely change her. Change will come in some ways. As you share your strengths and weaknesses, your goals, likes and dislikes, she will also share in these things. Your marriage must be worked at. You might train for years to play athletic games and study many years to become competent in a profession. But somehow we think that the most important factor in all our lives... the ability to be an effective husband... will just happen. It won't. It is not innate. Daily death of selfishness and resurrection into Christ's gentle nature will lead to a blessed marriage experience. The only viable formula for success in marriage is to approach it from God's perspective.

Finally, I would admonish you to COMMUNICATE. A man's logic without a woman's sensitivity is like a flying carpet which has no place to touch down upon reality. The church, the world, and the home needs strong, Christ centered husbands in this day. Mount up like an eagle, see the need, accept the challenge. Bless your marriage and God.

Brother Len Wertz

SIXTY YEARS AGO

June 15, 1927

THE BIBLE IS THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD

C. B. Sines

It seems to me, if there is any one that doesn't know that the Bible is the inspired word of God, he had better find out, for we are living in an age and a time we should know. We are living in the evening of the last days, and we only pass this way once, and we had better find out what we were put here for and what our duty really is. We have every reason in this world to believe that the Bible is the

inspired word of God.

If the Bible would not be the inspired word of God it would have been destroyed long ago, for it doesn't just read to suit a great many people. The Bible was written by men of God as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

The Bible could not possibly be the product of evil, wicked, godless, corrupt, vile men, for it pronounces condemnation and punishment against wrong doing. If bad men were writing the Bible they never would have pronounced condemnation and punishment against wrong doing.

This Book, the Bible, has stood the test for many hundred years yet it was tried by many, to be destroyed. Men and women were thrown to the beasts and burned at the stake and many beheaded because they believed the Bible. Millions of dollars were spent to try to overthrow the Book.

The Bible is the book that came to stay — heaven and earth shall pass away but my word shall never pass away.

This Book stands above every other book like mountains above mole hills. And God has always had a people that believe God and his word, and he still has a few that believe and teach every word of God's Book, a book whose life giving power exceeds the accumulated knowledge and combined efforts of wicked men as the sun exceeds the light of the lamp.

If any man will read the Bible and study the Bible and live the Bible he will know that it is the inspired word of God, and he will be willing to accept its teachings without question. I have long since learned that there is enjoyment and happiness brought about by living and accepting every word of God's book. It tells us how to live and how to die. It tells what to do, and what we are not to do. It tells us that we are not to lie, steal, murder, commit adultery and many other commandments.

I have searched the Bible through, and I have never found where it says for us to play baseball on Sunday, and to go to dances and shows and card parties and cock fights and have box suppers and organs and stringed instruments in the church. He does say that we are not to love the world neither the things in the world. This is no other but the inspired word of God.

The devil doesn't write a book like this. If it is not please tell me what it is. This book has lifted men and women out of the corrupt and dark world and placed them in the light of Jesus Christ. It has brought peace and happiness to fathers and mothers and homes and families of this sin cursed earth. Why? Because it is the inspired word of God.

Every word that the prophets wrote are being fulfilled. In this

Book he tells us of a heaven for the righteous and a hell for the wicked. There is only one way to get to heaven and that is the way of Jesus Christ which you will find in the inspired word of God.

The people of the world change and all other books change but the word of God never changes. If this world stands a million years longer, the Bible will still read and mean the same. It is the gospel of Jesus Christ, the same teaching, the same doctrine that Christ gave to the first church and that is the church that Christ established when he was here upon the earth, not four or five hundred as some people think, but only one, and if any one will follow the teaching of the inspired word of God it will lead him into that church.

The same things that he tells me to do he tells you the same thing. In this inspired word he tells me that we are to wash one another's feet. He also tells me that we are to salute our brother with a kiss. It tells us we are not to love the world. It tells us to come out from the world and be a separate people. It tells us that the church has power to make rules and has power to enforce them. Read Matt. 18. Does he not say the same to you?

Paul says preach the word. What word? The word of God, and it seems to me if any one belongs to a church where they don't preach the whole gospel and don't live the whole gospel they are encouraging the works of the devil and are partakers with them — that's certain they will be condemned with them. The inspired word is our guide and we must follow it if we expect to reach heaven. The Bible is the inspired word of God and he means just what he says.

Read it and live it and find out for yourself. May it lead many back to the true church of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE SALUTATION OF THE HOLY KISS

I Cor. 16:20, II Cor. 13:12, I Thess. 5:26, I Peter 5:14

This salutation is a kiss consecrated or set apart for a holy purpose. It is a kiss of love, a proper greeting for people who have been dedicated and consecrated to the Lord. When brethren of the same faith meet, they salute each other with the holy kiss, or kiss of love. When sisters meet, they also greet each other with this kiss of love.

The Apostle Paul gave the Roman Church the instruction "Salute one another with a holy kiss."

"Greet ye one another with an holy kiss." I Cor. 16:20 and II Cor. 13:12.

"Greet all the brethren with an holy kiss." I Thess. 5:26.

"Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity." I Peter 5:14.

Both Paul and Peter wrote as they were inspired by the Holy Ghost and the Salutation of the Holy Kiss is a teaching of the New Testament for us to follow.

Love is a strong passion of each individual. From youth to old age, it controls our action. Love and the return of love is one of the satisfying experiences of life.

"God is love." John 4:8. "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13. Jesus not only laid down His life for His friends but for His enemies also. The plan of salvation is the greatest love story ever told. We, that are His followers, should certainly have love in our hearts for our brethren and sisters. This is a true test of our discipleship. "We know we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren." I John 3:14.

This practice tends to unite the church and helps to maintain Christian love among the members.

Sister Maxine Surbey

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

The Ancient Practice

J. H. Moore

The Christians, living in the earlier centuries of the Christian era, not only believed that the baptismal formula taught trine immersion, but that was their practice. Speaking of this formula, John Chrysostom, born A.D. 347, a very distinguished scholar, whose mother tongue was the Greek, says: "Christ delivered to his disciples one baptism, in three immersions of the body when he said to them: 'Go teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.'" - Bingham.

Jerome, a man of exceptional scholarship, who belonged to the same period, presents, when commenting on Eph. 4:5, the same view, regarding the three actions of the formula constituting one baptism. Here are his words: "We are thrice dipped in the water, that the mystery of the Trinity may appear to be one:... though we be thrice put under water to represent the mystery of the Trinity, yet it is reputed to be but one baptism" - Bingham.

In the council at Carthage, North Africa, A.D. 256, Monulus, a bishop of some note, made a speech in which, among other things,

he said: "The truth of our Mother, the Catholic Church, brethren, hath always remained and still remains with us, and even especially in the Trinity of baptism, as our Lord says. Go ye and baptize the nations in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." — "Writings of Cyprian," Vol. II, page 205. There were eighty-seven bishops present when Monulus delivered his address, and not one of them challenged the statement.

We introduce one more witness, viz., Tertullian, born A.D. 160. He also held that the baptismal formula enjoins the threefold immersion, for he says: "He (Christ) commands them to baptize into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, — not into a unipersonal God. And, indeed, it is not once only, but three times, that we are immersed into three persons, at each several mention of their names." — "Writings of Tertullian," Vol. III, page 633.

These quotations not only show what reliable ancient authors believed, regarding the meaning of the baptismal formula, but they also show what was their practice. They believed that Jesus taught triple immersion, and in this form they administered the rite. And we may add that, among the ancient writers who have expressed themselves on the subject, there is not one who maintains that Matt. 28:19 teaches single immersion. Not only so, but they hold that this triple immersion is the one baptism mentioned by Paul in Eph. 4:5. With them it was "one baptism in three immersions of the body."

GONE IN THE WAY OF CAIN

Jude 11, "Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core."

This verse of scripture gives us three individuals who are examples of what a Christian should NOT be. While our major emphasis will be on the person of Cain, we would like to briefly look at the other two individuals named in this verse. The second individual mentioned is Balaam. This individual appears to be a backslidden prophet. He is best known for his donkey that talked. In Numbers 31 it tells of how he led God's people into idolatry and all the vile abominations connected with it. Scripture seems to teach that he followed this path of disobedience in order to possibly gain a reward he had previously lost because he refused to speak anything other than what God had commanded him to. There are many preachers today who are willing to compromise on the word of God to gain an earthly reward. They have led literally thousands of believers into rebellion against the teachings of God

within the New Testament.

The third individual mentioned is probably Korah the son of Izhar and grandson of Kohath. In the book of Numbers he is recorded as one who resisted the civil authority of Moses. We are living in a time when the word "authority" is considered to be obsolete in all too many instances. While true authority involves loving leadership and submission to others, there are all too few individuals in places of church authority who are willing to stand firm on the greatest authority, the Word of God.

Now let us take a look at the person of Cain. He was, of course, the first son of Adam and Eve. This is taught in Genesis 4:1. We mention this because there is a false teaching that says that Cain was a result of a relationship between Eve and Satan. In the following verses we find that he gave a sacrifice that was not acceptable to God. There is some difference of opinion as to why it was not accepted by God, but we believe it was because God demanded a blood sacrifice and Cain brought "of the fruit of the ground." Hebrews 11:4 states, "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh."

While the Old Testament demanded an animal sacrifice, the New Testament teaches us that Jesus Christ is the full and final sacrifice for sin. But we believe that there are at least two "sacrifices" that God will still accept from us. Romans 12:1 says, "I BESEECH you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." In place of this many want to sacrifice to God such things as time, talent and money. These things are very important in carrying out the work of the Church but our personal sacrifice must go beyond these gifts and earthly values. God wants US, not only our abilities. While God will be the final judge as to who enters Heaven and who suffers eternal punishment in Hell, we can not believe he is pleased with those who refuse to follow the instructions He has given concerning keeping our bodies modestly covered and without the added luxury of gold or jewelry. Why does it seem so much easier to give of time, talent, and money than to obey the will of the Lord in this matter? We believe all too many have the heart of Cain and wish to tell God what He must accept in place of full submission to His will.

God also desires that we follow where He leads us. If He should send us to a foreign country with very few creature comforts would we be willing to go? Are we willing to enter into doors that He opens for service in our local congregations? If the situation should call for living without a marital companion are we willing to

make this sacrifice for our Lord? We fear that all too many are willing to go or to serve as long as God sends them where they desire to go. Many also feel that God must make exceptions to meet the "needs" they feel are in their lives that are contrary to the teachings of Holy Scripture.

Secondly, we find that Cain murdered his brother. I John 3:11-12 speaks of this. "For this is the message that ye have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous." Then in verse 15 we read, "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer, and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him." We find that hating our brother is a very serious offense in the eyes of God. First of all we must decide who our "Brother" (and we could include "sister") is. Then we must define the word "love." We will allow each individual to search his or her own heart to decide who their brothers or sisters are in the Lord. But we would caution against trying to cover our own works of evil by refusing to recognize some other member of the family of God.

While the Holy Scriptures know nothing of the popular love that is taught in many circles today, we find it is a very important subject. We should be very careful that we admonish and proclaim truth in the spirit of love. This portion of scripture would say to us that it is possible to lose your very salvation by hating someone who is a brother in the Lord. Why is it that all too often the more "conservative" a movement or congregation is the more inner fighting is to be found? Have we gone the way of Cain and lost the love of Christ that we should have for one another?

In conclusion, let each of us desire to worship God according to the way He desires. Let us be willing to put our all on the altar of sacrifice and give ourselves completely to God. Let us truly love one another as Christ loves the Church. If you are not a part of the family of God you can not make a sacrifice that is pleasing to God. First of all you must accept His sacrifice of the blood of Christ. Won't you do this today?

James M. Hite
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NEVER ALONE

We could miss the mark of the prize of the high calling by putting too much trust in the perishing things of this world. When John the Revelator was on the lonely Isle of Patmos his mind was centered

above the perishing things of this world. Through his visions we have the descriptions of the eternal city of God. If we are true and faithful to God we can always find comfort and consolation in His eternal word. Jesus said "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." What a friend we can have in Jesus who will bear all our sins and griefs. He promises to go with us through the lonely valley of death if we remain true and faithful.

I believe we should always respect the dead in Christ especially those that have lived a peaceable life. We have the blessed words of comfort.

Never alone, no never alone,
Jesus is with me, Jesus my own.

Have we made Him a reality in our lives.

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Thou art the Potter; I am the clay,
Mould me and make me After Thy will,
While I am waiting, Yielded and still.

If the Lord is our shepherd we shall not want. He maketh us to lie down in green pastures. He restores our souls. He leadeth us in the paths of righteousness for His name sake. Yea we walk through the valley and shadow of death for we will fear no evil. Our cup runneth over. Thou anointest our heads with oil. He leadeth us beside the still waters. Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives and we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

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WIN THE LOST!

CHALLENGE FROM A MISSIONARY

O, how our lovely Lord is looking for faithful saints whom He can trust and depend on to get the Gospel to needy souls! O, how He longs for and desires steadfast saints who are not swayed by every wind of doctrine and who do not give up and back up every time they are disappointed, or get their feelings hurt — but will stay in the saddle and keep in the battle regardless of the onslaughts of the flesh, the world and the Devil. (1 Cor. 15:58; Gal. 6:9)

May I, in the name of our Lord Jesus, challenge every saint, every

household and every church to put soul-winning FIRST on your schedule this year. O, that pastors, deacons, and people would determine in their heart and soul to win the lost at any cost! Look to the blessed Holy Spirit and ask Him to break your heart for lost loved ones and friends. Ask Him for tears of compassion and love for lost souls. (Jer. 9:1; Ps. 126:5-6)

Ask Him for wisdom and spiritual discernment in dealing with immortal souls. (James 1:5; Prov. 11:30; Dan. 12:3). Ask Him for an understanding heart and real concern for lost people. (I Cor. 9:19; James 5:20)

Then ask Him for the grace and desire to follow Jesus regardless what others do. (Matt. 4:19) Look to the blessed dove of God and divine indweller for His fullness and boldness to witness and do personal work. (Acts 1:8; Acts 4:31)

Determine to walk in the Spirit so as to have victory over the desires, appetites and craving of the flesh. (Gal. 5:16-17) Present your body to the Lord of the harvest — the spirit of truth, to be possessed, filled and used by Him. (Romans 12:1-2)

Remember, He is a Spirit and must have a body to minister and manifest Himself through. (I Cor. 6:19-20) Therefore, be filled (under the influence, control and power) of the Spirit. (Eph. 5:18)

My dear Brothers and Sisters, we are without excuse if we are not serving Christ and glorifying God. (I Cor. 10:31) The dear Lord has made provision for us and given us all we need to honor Him in our service. (Rom. 8:32; II Peter 1:2-3)

Selected from Herald of His Coming
by Brother L. H. Miller

NEWS ITEMS

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lititz Congregation is looking forward to a two week revival, July 12 through the 26. Bro. Edward Johnson from Wauseon, Ohio is planning to be with us. We invite you to come and worship with us.

Sister Dorcas Myers, Cor.

CARD OF THANKS

To all the Brethren, Sisters and kind friends who sent me birthday wishes, letters and prayers. I want to say "Thank you" and the Lord richly bless each one.

I received many cards and appreciated each one. It made the day a very enjoyable one and one to be remembered. Again I say, "God bless you."

In Christian love,
Sister Della Ebling

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JULY 1987

July 5 - Stewards of God - I Cor. 4:1-21.

1. How important is the office of a steward.?
2. To whom must he give an account?

July 12 - Purge Out the Old Leaven - I Cor. 5:1-13.

1. Are we as stewards allowed to condone evil in the Church?
2. What happens when sin is let go in the body of Christ?

July 19 - A Temple of the Holy Ghost - I Cor. 6:1-20.

1. Why is our body called a temple?
2. Who is to dwell in this temple?

July 26 - Husbands and Wives - I Cor. 7:1-40.

1. Why did the Apostle Paul feel it was better for ministers to remain single?
2. Is a companion an hinderance to the ministry?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JULY 1987

July 5 - Daily Devotions - Gen. 28:16-22, I Sam. 1:19, Job 1:5, Luke 2:37, Acts 10:1-4.

1. To whom should we be devoted?
2. Why are daily devotions so important in our Christian life?

July 12 - Are we indifferent? - Isaiah 47:8-11, Matt. 22:1-14.

1. Do we as Christians live our lives according to His Word?
2. What will be the result if we live indifferently to God's Word?

July 19 - Examples - Lev. 20:22-26, John 13:15, I Tim. 4:10-16, I Pet. 2:18-25.

1. Is it important that Christians live a separate life from the world?
2. What should the Christians be to the world?

July 26 - Our Expectations - Ps. 62:1-12, Phil. 1:20-30.

1. In Psalms 62 number the things David says God is to him.
2. In Philipians 1:21 what does Paul say his expectation is?

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BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

NOW

H. Salkeld

This simple word of letters three,
Well known to each and all,
Though little in itself maybe,
It has a powerful call.
It seems to say, both clear and loud,
Especially to the young,
Remember thy creator -- God,
And watch thy heart and tongue.
Remember now to honor God,
And seek to do His will,
To mark the pathway that He trod,
And ask His guidance still.
To use our precious now aright
True wisdom we require
From God alone, the source of light,
And every good desire.
Let now in scripture light be seen,
As mentioned in the word,
'Redeeming Time' will be our aim
And glory to the Lord.

- Selected by L. H. Miller

MIDWAY

July first marks the halfway point in a year. When a new year begins it seems it will last a long time, but it does not seem long until July arrives. Then the realization of how quickly time passes comes upon us. The year is already half gone.

The calendar is a rigid measure of time. Days, weeks, months and years are measured off and pass. At the beginning of a year it is known exactly how many days until that year is over. Thus we know July makes the half way point. While the year rolls on, day by day, and its course is set, our lives are not so well scheduled.

Our lives are made up of the same days, weeks, months and years as the calendar but we being mortal do not have any promise of another day being added to what we have already lived. No matter how strong or hearty our health may be, we can not be sure we will be alive on the morrow let alone a week, month or year from now.

We can look at the calendar and say that the midpoint of the year has arrived. One half has passed and the other half is yet to be. As we look at our lives we can not be so sure about where we stand in relation to our total life span. We know when the beginning was but we do not know when the end will be. Various Bible passages speak of the brevity and uncertainty of life. Life is compared, variously, to grass, the flower of the grass, lilies and a vapor. All of these allusions speak of something very temporary. They show a very short span of time when life is present, healthy and vital. Then it is forever gone. Human life is precious because it is so fragile.

Life, though vital today, has no promise of even being present tomorrow. Thus it is impossible to predict the midway point of a

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human life. Life is not as predictable as the calendar. Preparations need to be made in the time given to us, that we may fulfill our God-ordained duties in this life while we have the opportunity. We can never know that if we postpone doing what we should that we will actually have the opportunity later. Disease, affliction and accident can alter and end life. Plans made today or this year may not be carried out. Our plans are at the mercy of the Lord's will. This is why James writes that we should make our plans subject to what God's will would be rather than by what our desires would be.

Time not being promised to us, we should be careful with each day and with each activity. Our Spiritual lives have a definite starting place just like our physical lives. There is a time of Spiritual birth when the choice is made to please God in our lives. We cannot please Him without yielding ourselves wholly to Him and His plan for our lives and souls. He has paid a very dear price that we might be a part of His family.

After we have, as a babe, entered God's family, we do not have a promise of a certain amount of time in which to fulfill our task. Therefore we must be very vigilant and industrious in living each day to please Him.

At the end of this life's journey there awaits a wonderful place of rest and bliss. We should all be striving for a life that will qualify us to enter that Eternal Rest in the Beauties of Heaven. Our lives should not only be lived so we may obtain that Heavenly goal but rather because of the privilege of serving God as obedient and loving children.

While we do not know the exact measure of our lives we do realize that the present is the middle. We have made a definite beginning when we become a child of God. We know there awaits an end to our earthly pilgrimage. The time we have between those two events is the midway.

We need to make the start and we will make an end, so this time is the time for us to live to please God. It is what we do during this middle course of our lives that will influence how our end will be. If there is no start on the Christian life the end will be tragic. If a start is made but the present life is not consistent with that beginning the end may also be tragic because effort did not accompany belief. If the start is made and the lifetime effort is invested, the end will be glorious. It will be not only a reward for us but a glory to God.

We are today in the midway of life. It is what we do today and each day given us that will determine our eternal future. Make the good choice, live the good life and enjoy the eternal rewards and joys of Heaven.

Where do you stand on the pathway of life? Since you do not know its length, are you living each day as if it were the last and you would soon meet God? July is the midpoint of this year, are you living the middle part of your life's journey to please God?

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES

In the game of "Truth or Consequences", if you are unable to correctly answer the questions, you must suffer the consequences. You may take a guess, and you may get it right, but if you're only partly correct, you still must suffer the consequences. The penalties may vary from the humorous to something very embarrassing. Since this is a game, and intended to entertain, the penalties may be ridiculous. The point is, the truth keeps us safe, with no penalty to pay.

Truth is required in our lives also. Life is not a game, but there are consequences for not abiding in the truth. First of all, we must be truthful about our soul's need. We need to take our sins to Christ, confess and forsake them, in order to receive the salvation He alone can give. If we are not truthful, if we deny that we have need of forgiveness, we will have to suffer the penalty ourselves.

The consequences of disobedience even when confessed always bring some suffering, but the suffering from unconfessed sin is far greater. There is the mental anguish as well as the condemnation hanging over us. Besides this, when we don't recognize and acknowledge our sin, we tend to continue in it, which compounds the problem. We don't need to increase our suffering as we do sometimes because of our foolishness (Jesus has provided a better way), but we will suffer unless and until we confess our sins to Christ and forsake them.

"If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth." I John 1:6. What we say about our relationship with Jesus may sound good, but the facts are revealed by our walk. God expects us to walk in His light, not just talk about it. Lying about this relationship will not eliminate the penalty. It is far better to be truthful — with God, with ourselves and others — then to attempt a "cover-up".

"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." I John 1:8. The truth is we are all sinners, but human nature tries to deny it. The only way we can be set free from sin's power is through Christ. Again, human nature says we can do it on our own. But, the Bible says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I John 1:9. This cleansing is conditional, following con-

fession. The truth is we cannot cleanse ourselves.

"If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" I John 4:20. Our love for God (or lack of it) is revealed in our relationships with other people. We may try to separate our responsibilities, but we can't. We like to justify it when we mistreat someone, but we can't. Our day-to-day living reveals what's in our hearts better than anything we ever say.

What are the consequences if we say and don't do, if we lie about our relationship to God? Pretending we are serving the Lord won't make it so. We may be able to fool people with our talk, but we can't fool God. "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." I John 5:12. Our spiritual life is in Christ. Without Him, we are dead in sin, and stand condemned.

Lying about sin is an effort to cover it up. When we avoid the reality of sin, and its consequences either by an outright lie, or by sidestepping the issue, we are trying to deny the problem. The problem is sin, the consequence is death, and the truth is we all stand condemned until we come to Christ for salvation. Sins we commit after we've received Christ brings condemnation also, unless we confess and ask forgiveness.

Some situations have more serious consequences in this life than others, but all sin has eternal consequences. We reap what we sow both now and in the future unless we come to Christ for cleansing. Sin multiplies and the results get worse, never better. This is the truth about sin, and its consequences. Another truth is Christ in remedy for sin. He can forgive it, but also can strengthen us so we won't live in sin.

The Devil lies to us about sin and its consequences, but Jesus has told us the truth. Jesus has removed the penalty for sin from those who believe in Him. WHOM DO YOU BELIEVE?

Sister Eileen Broadwater.

WHEN MY LIFE'S WORK IS ENDED

"I have been young and I am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." Psalms 37:25.

In our early years of life, we take many things for granted. As we grow older, we gain more experience, have more opportunities, and have greater responsibilities, we more fully realize how dependent we are on a higher power. We can then better visualize our frailties and weaknesses.

Paul's writings in Romans 7:15 indicates his weaknesses and

inabilities when he acknowledges, "That at times I did that which I would not, and at times did not do that which I would." (My interpretation).

Quoting the Apostle Paul further, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Phil. 4:13, John 15:5 - And without me (Christ) ye can do nothing.

Each individual should fully believe that any worthwhile accomplishment that he may be able to do, he can do, only because God gave him the talent. God has given each individual at least one talent. We must give an account of our stewardship as to how we have used our talents. That accounting will be required when "our life's work is ended."

It is my aim and purpose in writing this article to encourage each reader to look at life as a "journey from the cradle to the grave." I encourage each one to so live, love and serve the Lord so that when "Our life's work is ended" we may be found well-pleasing in His sight.

Life is not always a bed of roses. There will be times we may become very discouraged. We dare not despair. There also will be many rich and encouraging experiences which will bring joy to our lives. Truly, our cup will run over.

We thank God for both. Faith in God is an absolute, pre-requisite to make life's journey successful in reaching the Eternal Shore.

Life has its ups and its downs, its lows and its highs, its mountains and its valleys, and its joys and its sorrows.

God so ordained our life that way. Along with the trials, temptations, heart-aches, and disappointments, He has provided a means of escape or strength to endure. This avenue of help is through the medium of prayer. PRAYER CHANGES THINGS.

A professed Christian can not successfully make life's journey without the help of answered prayers. Each of us should have a secret, quiet secluded place to pray and go there regularly. It is very rewarding.

James 5:16, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

Matt. 6:6, "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."

Luke 18:1, "Men ought always to pray, and not to faint."

John 16:24, "Ask and ye shall receive." There are many more similar scriptures, which if we obey and practice, will bless and enrich our Christian lives. It will enable us to be better qualified to meet our judgment when our life's work is ended.

The most satisfying and sure way to go through life is hand in hand with the Lord Jesus.

The Apostle Paul admonishes the importance of living a life acceptable to our Lord and Saviour, not only for the present, but for the future.

I Cor. 15:19, "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable."

We have many precious promises to spur us on the Heavenly way.

John 10:4, "He will lead us as the good Shepherd."

Isaiah 58:15, "The Lord shall guide us continually."

Psalms 17:8, "He will hide us under the shadow of His Wings."

I Kings 8:57, "He will not leave us or forsake us."

What blessed promises! There are many more in God's Word.

In much humility, in my own life, I truthfully state, I have felt His guiding hand and His comforting presence many times.

I have also experienced times I felt He was far from me. Not that Christ moved from me, but that I moved too far away from Him.

I am thankful to God that in my younger years, He chose me as a servant of His. From many rich experiences that I have enjoyed in His service, I am very glad that I answered the call.

I promised Him to be faithful. I promised to preach the Word. It was my desire then, and is now, to serve Him, the church and all mankind to the best of my ability.

Throughout my ministry I was put through many fiery trials. Perhaps to remove the dross.

With much regret, humility and shame, I acknowledge that at times, through the weakness of the flesh, I failed Him, for which I have been very sorry, and many times asked for His forgiveness, oft times through tears.

I can truthfully state, that though I failed Him, He never failed me.

In my lifetime, I have worked at various occupations. By far, the best taskmaster I ever worked for was the Lord Jesus Christ. There is much joy and rich rewards in working in the Lord's vineyard.

In my weakness, I have attempted to preach the Gospel for over thirty-five years. I have enjoyed my ministry to the fullest measure.

I have experienced the Holy Spirit prompting the message He would have me speak to the congregations. Many times His spirit brought tears to my eyes as well as to others in the audience.

A number of blessings in my Christian life afforded me much joy.

One, my father and mother who maintained a Christian home, which gave me a goodly heritage.

Two, when God gave me a Christian companion. She offered me

comfort and consolation and encouragement many many times when I was down in spirits.

Another special blessing was God permitting me and my dear Brother David Ebling in touring the Holy Land together.

To walk where Jesus walked was a great spiritual blessing. To see and place my hand on the tomb where Jesus was buried and arose from, was a soul-thrilling experience. I can say as the Angel told the women who came early on resurrection morning. "He is not here, He is risen."

The last, but not the least, which always thrilled my soul, was to witness, in evangelistic meetings, those who gave up this sinful world, by denouncing satan and accepting Jesus Christ as their personal saviour.

Then to experience the New Birth, by being buried in baptism and arising, coming out of the water, a new creature in Christ Jesus with their past sins washed away, to me this is joy unspeakable.

Luke 15:7, Jesus' words. "I say unto you that likewise joy shall be in Heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons who need no repentance."

I felt to write this article which may be my last, only God knows.

As I am approaching the end of my life's work, I have many reasons to be thankful to almighty God.

He has permitted me to enjoy many District and General Conferences. I was given the opportunity of worshipping in many of our congregations and visiting in many, many homes over our dear Brotherhood.

I thank Him for the many prayers He has answered in my every behalf. I thank Him for revealing in His way the light of His glorious gospel.

I am very thankful to those of our fore-parentss who were faithful and brought the church down to our day. Thus, we can worship the old time religion way as they did.

As I approach nearer the time when my life's work comes to an end, I thank Him that He has allowed me to live past four score years.

It greatly touches my heart and I have shed many tears, that we can no longer function in the church as we would like.

Because of the infirmities of the flesh, my wife and I are now residents of a nursing home. We had to give up our car, our home and household possessions.

The only home we have now to look forward to is our Heavenly Home, that which Jesus has gone on to prepare.

God may have some work for us to do yet, but only He knows.

While we are waiting on the Lord, the day may not be too distant

in the future when He will say, "Your life's work is ended."

We hope at that time, we can truthfully say, as the Apostle said in II Tim. 4:7-8, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith; Henceforth, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day, and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing."

May God's blessings rest upon each reader, is our prayer.

Your Brother,
Elder Paul R. Myers
c/o Manor Care Nursing Home,
Belden Village, 5005 Higbee Ave. NW
Canton, Ohio 44718

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

MARRIAGE

Part 6

MONEY AND MARRIAGE: We close this series of articles with a very important lesson on a topic that affects most couples. "In the beginning man took unto himself a wife. And lo, they did live happily, even unto the thirty-first day, when many charge accounts rained upon them, yea, as in a flood. For lo, though the husband did make sufficient bread to keep body and soul together, yet had the wiles of the spoiler ensnared the wife, calling forth grievous wants from her breast. Credit card purchases had multiplied fruitfull, which came nigh unto sinking the ship of marriage. The winds of inflation blew upon that land, and each one lusted after his neighbors goods. And the man was sorely angered and spoke forth bitter words, from which his wife took great sorrow, but not unto repentance. For upon the first day of the week she went forth again and spent abundantly."

"Then it was that the man was sorely pressed, and he took unto himself a second job by the light of the moon, and his wife likewise, and their lives did pass like ships in the night. Behold, the time of the paying of the bills returneth, and the man saith unto his wife, 'Yea, though I moonlight and work my fingers to the bone, I canst not get ahead of thee!' And his wife beateth her breast. 'Truly', she saith, 'I am now filled with remorse. Let my bed be empty if I mend not my way.'"

"Then gave she ear unto her husband and they took counsel together that they might be of one mind in their values, and beat the system, yea, and buildeth for their future according to a budget.

And so did they walk prudently before the Lord, who knoweth our ways and pitieth those who cannot make ends meet."

This modern day parable was composed to illustrate the situation that many Christian married couples find themselves in today. Money has a great impact on most of our lives. To one partner, it might mean security and stability. To the other it might represent the freedom to spend and fulfill dreams. It has as many meanings as there are mates. The handling of finances is one of the major emotional battlegrounds in marriage. Today it is frequently not because of a great lack of it but because of the unrealistic and immature money values that exist. Money is often used as an emotional weapon to control and manipulate each other. It is also used as a way of compensating for inadequacies in the relationship.

Men sometimes use money unjustifiably to fulfill their hobby or hunting interests. Even though it means the sacrifice of the wife's hopes and future. Then he accuses her of being cold and critical.

Some women drive their husbands to succeed so that they can amass wealth and have prestige and super-security. Then she becomes very upset when he buries himself in his work and avoids her.

To handle family finances, there should be mutual decision making, common life-values, long-term goals and open account books.

So, what should our attitude toward money be? It should simply be a medium of exchange. In reality, it is our time turned in to exchangeable, usable services and goods. It is time! If you turn that around and say that "time is money," you are in danger of becoming a slave to the money.

Every Christian couple should have some mutually agreed upon strategy for handling their finances. A system of priorities is necessary. It should be more than a budget. It should discuss what your values in life are and your attitudes and priorities.

Paying bills and handling financial needs should be a joint venture as you consult together about spending. There has to be a great deal of openness and honesty here as you **CONTROL YOUR SPENDING...** and not let it control you.

In handling your finances, the first rule of money management is to **GIVE**. This is one of the most joyous acts of Christian living and is necessary in pleasing God. This is an investment for the love of God and of others. Above all, live simply. Living simply demands that we carry less baggage. Christ was the ultimate example here. He owned only what was on His back and trusted implicitly on the Father. If we travel light, in times of crisis, it becomes easier to

handle. In reality, we are living in crisis times right now. As we travel through the end times and look ahead to a one world monetary system, we understand better that it is time to sort out our values and keep them basic and Christ centered. Jesus teaches us that we cannot serve two masters. (Read Matt. 6:24-27)

We are admonished to be content and this teaching will bring peace into our marriage. We all have ways of rationalizing our life style and standard of living but I believe these rationales are coming up for great question at this point in the late 1980's. As we examine our values in the light of Christ's teachings, we will have mutual growth in our relationship and each person will achieve their God given potential to the fullest.

Marriage is a shared life... sharing love, sharing work, opportunities, leadership, initiative and finances. Marriage is sharing God, its Head.

Brother Len Wertz

SIXTY YEARS AGO

July 1, 1927

PREACH THE WORD

Reuben Shroyer

Why preach it?

Because it is the plan God in his wisdom had devised to save men and women.

"For seeing that in the wisdom of God, the world through its wisdom knew not God, it was God's good pleasure through the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." (I Cor. 1:21)

"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed and how shall they believe on him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher and how shall they preach except they be sent, even as it is written how beautiful are the feet of them that bring glad tidings of good things." (Rom. 10:14-15.)

It is THE PLAN the Lord Jesus gave to his disciples to save the world.

Go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 28:19) And he said unto them, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. But he that disbelieveth shall be condemned." (Mark 16:15-16)

What shall we preach? The Gospel of Christ. (See Mark 16:15-16)

"For I am not ashamed (says Paul) of the gospel, (he gives reason). For it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth, To the Jew first, and also to the Greek." (Rom. 1:16)

Notice the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation. There stands the definite article THE, which means the Gospel is the only power. Not a power the THE power. If the Gospel was A power the language would imply there were other powers, by which men could be saved.

The instruction is preach the WORD.

"I charge thee in the sight of God who shall judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom preach the word. Be urgent in season, out of season, reprove, exhort, rebuke, with all long suffering and teaching. (The apostle gives reason for so doing.) For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine but having itching ears, will keep to themselves teachers after their own lusts, and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside unto fables." (II Tim. 4:1-4)

Preach Jesus Christ.

"And the eunuch answered Philip and said, I pray thee of whom speaketh the prophet this, of himself or of some other? And Philip opened his mouth and beginning from this scripture preached unto him Jesus." (Acts 8:34-35)

Result: he believed and was baptized.

Faith is obtained by hearing the word.

"So faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God." (Rom. 10:17) "And when there had been much questioning Peter rose up and said unto them, Brethren, ye know that a good while ago God made choice among you that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the Gospel and believe." (Acts 15:7)

The seed is the word of God. (Luke 8:11) In believing it we are begotten by it.

"Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures." (James 1:18) "Having been begotten again not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible through the word of God which liveth and abideth forever." (I Peter 1:23)

"For though ye have ten thousand tutors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I begat you through the Gospel." (I Cor. 4:15)

By believing and obeying the Gospel our souls are purified and we are saved.

"Wherefore putting away all filthiness and overflowing of wicked-

ness receive with meekness the implanted word which is able to save your souls." (James 1:21) "Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only deluding your own souls." (verse 22)

The apostle Peter preached the word showing how or what must be preached, in preaching the word (See Acts 10:36-48; also 11:14-18).

Peter after telling how he was convinced that God wanted him to preach to the Gentiles (Acts 1:1-35), also refers to the word having been published throughout Judea concerning the life of Jesus (see verses 36-38). He then calls attention to his death on the cross, burial, resurrection (verses 40-41). Appointed judge of quick and dead (verse 42). Prophets testifying that believers in Christ shall receive the remission of sins through his name (verse 42). Believing in Christ through the preaching of the word of the gospel (see Acts 15:7). Having repented (Acts 11:18). Peter commanded them to be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). We therefore conclude that in preaching the word, we preach the gospel. The Gospel consisting of facts to be believed, and commands to be obeyed, and wonderful promises to be enjoyed. We pray that the Lord's blessing some on all preachers who are true to the record. So that many souls be saved and God's name glorified.

Brother Preacher, preach the word. It will be the saver of life unto life or of death unto death.

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

SOME HISTORY

J. H. Moore

We might fill scores of pages with extracts from the writings of historians, ancient and modern, showing that in the early centuries of the Christian era trine immersion was the well nigh universal practice in all the churches East and West. But since we are treating these subjects briefly we shall let a few extracts suffice.

Our first author is Isaac Taylor Hinton, A.M., a Baptist historian of acknowledged ability. In his "History of Baptism," page 158, he says: "The practice of trine immersion prevailed, in the West as well as in the East, till the fourth council of Toledo (A.D. 633), which, acting under the advice of Gregory the Great, in order to settle some disputes which had arisen, decreed that henceforth only one immersion should be used in baptism; and from that time the practice of only one immersion gradually became general throughout the Western or Latin Church."

Dr. Robert Robinson, another Baptist historian, and the author of several works, has this to say in his "History of Baptism," page 148:

"It is not true that dipping was exchanged for sprinkling by choice before the Reformation (A.D. 1517), for, till after that period, the ordinary baptism was trine immersion." This is true of all the churches, both in Asia and in Africa, as well as in Europe. In fact, single immersion seems to have been employed only to a limited extent before the Reformation.

However, leaving the Baptist writers, we call attention to a statement of Dr. William Wall, M.A., in his scholarly work, entitled "The History of Infant Baptism": "The way of trine immersion, or plunging the head of the person three times into the water, was the general practice of all antiquity." Vol. II, page 419.

The testimony of Pelagius, Bishop of Rome (in the sixth century), deserves consideration: "There are many who say that they were baptized in the name of Christ alone, and by a single immersion. But the Gospel command, which was given by God himself, and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, reminds us that we should administer holy baptism to every one in the name of the Trinity, and by trine immersion; for our Lord said to his disciples, 'Go, baptize all nations, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.' " — Chrystal's "History of the Modes of Baptism," page 80.

Having seen what one of the early bishops of Rome had to say, we now call on Cyril, Bishop of Jerusalem, born A.D. 315: "After these things ye were led to the holy pool of divine baptism, as Christ was carried from the cross to the sepulchre. And each of you was asked whether he believed, and so forth; and made that saving confession, and descended three times into the water and ascended again; — and that water of salvation was a grave to you."—"Pengilly on Baptism," page 151.

It may interest the reader to learn what view John Wesley took of the triple action in baptism. Mr. Wesley was a very prolific writer, and at his death left his manuscript to trustees, who were to destroy the same, or make use of it as they deemed proper. Rev. Henry Moore was one of the trustees, and wrote a very complete account of Mr. Wesley's life and labors, entitled "Moore's Life of Wesley," consisting of two volumes, and in Vol. 1, page 424, makes this statement: "When Mr. Wesley baptized adults, professing faith in Jesus, he chose to do it by trine immersion, if the person would submit to it, judging this to be the apostolic method of baptizing."

OBITUARY

SYLVIA BANCROFT

Sis. Sylvia Eva (Ruff) Bancroft was born June 5, 1900 in Fort Wayne, Indiana to Edward and Barbara Ellen (Swoverland) Ruff.

She united with the Church of the Brethren at an early age. Soon after moving to the Denair area, she transferred her membership to the Dunkard Brethren Church, and was a faithful saint until the end.

Sylvia entered into rest March 2, 1987, at the age of 86 years, 8 months and 25 days. Funeral services were held March 6, 1987 at Lakewood Memorial Park by Elders Hayes Reed and Rudy Cover.

She is survived by one son, three daughters, eight grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

NEWS ITEMS

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

The Englewood Congregation has chosen Brother Robert Carpenter to conduct a two week Revival, July 12 through 26, if the Lord permits.

Our Harvest Meeting is planned for the afternoon of July 19. Speaker will be Brother Dennis St. John.

May the Lord enable many to help make this a time to honor His name.

Sister Ruth Speicher, Cor.

HART, MICHIGAN

The Hart Mission will be holding Revival Meetings starting July 25 through August 2, with Lovefeast on Saturday, August 1.

Brother Len Wertz will be the evangelist. We invite any to come and enjoy Christian fellowship.

Sister Beverly St. John, Cor.

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Lord willing, we expect to have our Harvest service August 30, 1987, with Bro. Carpenter as speaker. We welcome all to come and worship with us.

Sister Eileen Broadwater, Cor.

THANK YOU

I want to tell you of my love and appreciation for the many cards and letters and telephone calls on my birthday. I prayed for wealth and fame, the Lord gave me good health and long life. I praise Him every day for Romans 5:8 and I John 3:14. May the Lord bless each one of you.

Brother L. A. Shumake

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Paul Stump
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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXV

JULY 15, 1987

NO. 14

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
---	--

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

HOW SHALL I FOLLOW HIM I SERVE?

How shall I follow him I serve?
How shall I copy him I love?
Nor from those blessed footsteps swerve,
Which lead me to his seat above?

Privations, sorrows, bitter scorn,
The life of toil, the mean abode,
The faithless kiss, the crown of thorn —
Are these the consecrated road?

'Twas thus he suffered, tho' a Son,
Foreknowing, choosing, feeling all,
Until the perfect work was done —
And drank the bitter cup of gall.

Lord, should my path thro' suff'ring lie,
Forbid it I should e'er repine;
Still let me turn to Calvary,
Nor heed my griefs, rememb'ring thine.

- Selected

TRUSTEES

In the financial and civic affairs of men, there are often occasions when trustees are chosen. These trustees represent others rather than merely themselves. The financial trustee has a responsibility for proper management of another's property or resources. In civic affairs, trustees are elected to govern a small area. They represent the citizens of that jurisdiction. Trustees are elected to handle certain temporal affairs of the congregation following the directions of the council meetings. These trustees carry out the direction of others, since it is easier for a small board to handle these affairs rather than many handling these affairs themselves. Whether by election or appointment these trustees are chosen to administer these responsibilities for the benefit of all concerned.

The Biblical record tells of men who served as trustees of other men's temporal affairs. They were usually known as stewards. These stewards were servants who had risen in the estimation of their masters to the place where they were entrusted with the master's finances. There are accounts given of some who were good stewards and some who were unfaithful. Because they were servants they were subject to instant dismissal if their work was not pleasing to their masters. Their fates were altogether in the hands of the masters.

A faithful steward could so handle his master's goods so as to increase their value. An unfaithful steward could financially ruin his master. There was a great responsibility laid upon the steward.

The very name "trustee" shows that the largest element in that position was trust. The one who chooses the trustee must have a great deal of trust and confidence in him. There must be a return of

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that trust by the trustee so he will believe that he will be fairly rewarded and cared for, for being faithful and trustworthy.

"Trust" is akin to faith. The faith that a Christian has toward God and in His Word is a trust that God is God and that He means what He reveals through His Word.

Christians are trustees. They have been entrusted with many valuable possessions by God. They have been given the Gospel to not only keep but to share and spread among others. The good trustee will not be a do-nothing person, hiding his entrusted goods. The man given one talent, who hid it in the ground, was severely condemned by his returning master. It was those who had used their talents to gain more who were commended and rewarded by their master. Christians likewise are not to hoard or hide the Gospel but use it for the benefit of others. They must make sure that it does not lose its integrity but is kept as when delivered to their trusted care.

Only a few men are chosen to be trustees for a congregation, but all Christians are trustees for the preservation and well-being of the Church. Each has the responsibility of furthering the Spiritual well-being of the Church, not just the temporal affairs of the Church-house.

We are all responsible that the Church will be handed down from one generation to another, pure and undefiled. If we do not act as responsible trustees, those coming after may find the Church to have been allowed to drift from the standards set by the Word of God. If each member doesn't act as a trustee in his own life in being faithful to God's standards, soon the whole Church will be moved from her former position.

There is a need for some love-based discipline within the Church. Without discipline, the leaven of sin can quickly spread throughout the Church and cause her to lose her standing before God. Some tough decisions to require those guilty of open, known sins to either quit their activity or to be set outside the Church need to be made. Those guilty of such sin are already lost although members. If set outside they may come to themselves and in repentance be reunited with the Church. If they are allowed to continue as members, they may infect others with their folly and the whole congregation be brought down.

Trustees are needed to be sure the Church continues in her God-appointed course. Trustees are needed to serve God as servants, who must give an account of their stewardship.

Are you a responsible trustee? Can God trust you in your individual life? Can He trust you in a position of responsibility? Are you a good trustee of the goods He has entrusted you with? Are you a faithful trustee of the Church, preserving it for others?

THIS IS A RECORDING

"This is a recording" is a common message to us these days when using a telephone. It may say the number you've dialed isn't correct, a phone-mate will take your message, or some other statement. But whatever it says, the message comes from a lifeless, mechanical voice. It is a mere statement of fact, briefly giving you the information needed. It can't be argued with, nor can it answer any questions. When you need to talk to someone, getting a recording instead can be very frustrating.

Sometimes in our personal relationships, we respond mechanically, much as the recording does. This can be very frustrating to the person with whom we are trying to communicate. We say the right words but we really don't mean them. It is easy to apologize, to say "thank you" or "I love you" without really meaning what we say. Good manners are important, but if our manners are purely mechanical responses to others, they are of little value. Our responses must come from our hearts to be meaningful.

A minister said the following statement would solve difficulties. "I am wrong, I am sorry. Please forgive me." For married couples, add "I love you." Then someone else put it like this: "I am wrong, I am sorry, please forgive me. I love you. This is a recording." Such a response may not be on a tape, or may not come over a phone, but it is recorded just as surely in our minds. When we just say the words, they are a recording. An insincere response such as this will never make any problem better.

In the Christian life, we try to be sure we say all the right words, but it is another matter to carry them out. Christian living requires more from us than just talk. Jesus said, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" Luke 6:46. Jesus expects some action, not just talk. He expects sincerity and a response from our hearts. When we live to suit ourselves and yet say we belong to Jesus, we might as well add, "This is a recording."

People who are not sincere have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof (see II Tim. 3:2-5). These verses tell of people who loved themselves more than anything else. They really didn't have time for God. They had a form or a certain way of going things, but their lives were like a mechanical recording. "They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him." Titus 1:16. The words were there, but there was no life in them.

"If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled, notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?" James 2:15-16. The answer is nothing. When a need is so obvious, and we respond

with only some sweet-sounding words, it is no better than a heartless, lifeless recording. This situation requires more of us than just being a well-wisher.

Most of us would not send someone away who really needed physical help. Ordinary common sense tells us it is a time for compassion. But what about in other matters? We send people away empty in heart with "I see your need for love, encouragement and support, but I'm too busy. When I have time, I'll return your call. This is a recording." We talk of doing great things for Jesus, but never even do the little things. The Bible says, "My little children (that's us!), let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." I John 3:18. It is obvious that God expects us to act according to what we say. Mere expressions of good intentions are not enough.

Are you sincere in your Christian commitment, or is it just a recording? Are you giving mechanical, lifeless responses to God's commands, or are you responding with heartfelt, sincere action? A robot can be programed to talk, walk and do certain things, but there is no life there. A robot is like a recording, a talking doll. God wants us to be alive, to respond in love, and to carry out His will. He is not interested in any mechanical reproductions. Which are you — alive in Christ, or just a recording?

Sister Eileen Broadwater
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ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"The Pressure Is On"

There is no question but what we are living in a pressure cooker world today. Stress and external and internal pressures are bearing down on Christians just as they are on the rest of the world. As we consider biblical answers to the problem of pressure, we turn to Obadiah.

Obadiah was in charge of Ahab's palace and yet he was a devout believer in the Lord. (I Kings 18:3) This would seem to be, from human perspective, an unbelievable combination. But from God's point of view, He had this man in a strategic position to accomplish His will. Joseph, Moses and Daniel would be similar examples of God placing His man in just the right place within the society to accomplish His perfect plan. Nehemiah, too, served as a cupbearer to the King Artaxerxes. He literally tasted the king's food and drank his drink first to make sure that it was not poisonous or harmful in any way. In all of these situations, God enabled His people to

occupy key positions in the secular, pagan world in order to carry out His divine plan for His people.

As the king's trusted administrator and confidant, Obadiah did not compromise his faith in the living God. Ahab served Baal... Obadiah didn't bow! How could this have been possible? How did he maintain Ahab's trust? The answer to this is that Obadiah was very devout in his belief. His spiritual convictions were unmoved. He was the kingpin in a battle against the evil forces. Probably no one has been in any more danger... by choice... as he was always in the "pressure-cooker."

We learn that Obadiah was not only committed but he was also a very wise man. This wisdom was beyond human ingenuity and was profound, totally trusting in the Almighty.

During the horrible drought, Ahab ordered Obadiah to assist him in finding food for his horses and mules so they wouldn't have to be killed. As he was checking out the country side, Elijah met him, coming from the opposite direction. Elijah asked Obadiah to tell Ahab that he was there but Obadiah became defensive. He felt it would certainly mean his death. He reminded Elijah of his faithfulness to God... serving and worshiping the Lord since his youth. With deep emotion he told how he had jeopardized his own life each day by hiding the Lord's prophets in caves and providing them with provisions. Finally, he responded to Elijah's order to communicate the message. So... what can we learn here that is relevant to the twentieth century conservative Christian? First of all, we see that God will use us in our positions in the secular and pagan society to accomplish His perfect will. That purpose is ultimately to communicate the message of redemption through Jesus Christ to a lost world. Our purpose is not to really preserve society nor is it to provide a place of security for our families. It is to spread the Good News.

Paul communicated this message to Timothy. He was taught to pray for those in authority and live a peaceful and quiet life in all holiness. (I Tim. 2:2) Ultimately, God is interested in our security because he wants to provide opportunities for us to reach out as His arms and mouthpiece. He, too, desires that all men be saved.

As we rub shoulders with non-Christians our greatest influence is felt by our great hope for the future and our love for God and other people. As the world deteriorates more and more, it is leaving people reaping the results of their sinful moral choices and they are searching frantically for something that can give meaning to life. We HAVE THE ANSWER to their dilemma. It is that personal relationship with Jesus that gives us hope for the present and for the future. It is a loving and ethical relationship with other Christians who provide hope and security while we sojourn here.

Secondly, we learn that it is only through devotion that we will be dynamically used by God. Obadiah had served the Lord from his youth and had emerged victorious. We will too! We will never impress the world by being like them. Our value system has to reflect God's standard or righteousness. We are strangers here... aliens! And, if we take a right moral and ethical stand, I believe we will be respected for it.

God uses us in a special way today if we reflect wisdom in our relationships with non-Christians. We are sent as sheep among wolves. We are to be thoughtful... yet harmless.

Will we be successful in our witness if we counter-react to the current evil trends of the day? Should we be offensive and bombastic? Should we threaten and respond in anger? This would be very easy but I believe in doing this we lose the message of Christ and salvation in the battle. God will spew them out of His mouth. God will judge and give the reward. We are to teach in concern and loving kindness. Obviously we can't cooperate with them and there may be times when we will choose to die rather than be caught up in the world... but we are not to be defiant in attitude. We can be at peace... and the pressure can lessen.

Finally remember... we will have problems but God delights in using these problems to achieve His purposes. Where there are no problems there are no solutions. Where there are no battles, there are no victories. "Only God can turn lemons into lemonade." Stress leads us to understand that fact.

Brother Len Wertz

CAPTAIN OF OUR SALVATION

When we come up before the judgment seat, we can't use any ticket but our own. Each must answer to the Lord. God will be the judge on that great day. No one can take your place, so dear ones, let Christ be your Captain. Here a soul is all alone. John 12:48 says, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." So let us follow Christ for His Word is the same yesterday, today and forever. It will not pass away. We must be judged by the Word, and it will stand. Jonah was a sign to Nineveh, so Christ is to us. We must fight the battle of faith if we hope to win salvation.

In the Old Testament we read that Moses said, when the enemy was coming, stand still and hold your peace. Today in our Church we must stand still and hear the voice of Jesus. We know we will receive victory if we only put our trust in the hands of the Captain

of our Salvation. He is the only One. The Holy Spirit will lead us all the way.

When at times you seem discouraged, dear ones, don't give up. He will carry you through. Moses gave unto you that living bread, the hidden manna, which was Spiritual Life. It is not a small supply but day by day. So God will give you the things you need.

Dear ones, if you are in bondage, go to God who is able to supply every need, whether great or small. Won't you put it into His hands? If your soul is longing for a better life get in touch with the Captain, He has so much to offer. Salvation is free for all who will accept it. So, dear ones, open the door of your heart and let Jesus the Captain of your soul in and start living for Him. The time is getting late. Probably later than you think. Today is the day of salvation.

Sister E. M. Alltus

THE PRECIOUS BIBLE

The Bible is the most valuable book ever printed. It is the holy and divine Word of God. It gives us spiritual food for our never dying souls. If we accept it, it will supply us with spiritual nourishment and strength. Since our spiritual warfare is most important, the Bible should have first place in our homes and lives. It is a light and lifeline to eternal glory. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." It is a light to us where the current is never cut off.

The Psalmist David said, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." If we be a hearer of the Word of God and not a doer it will benefit us nothing. Whosoever looketh in the perfect law of liberty and continues therein and being not a forgetful hearer will be blessed in his deeds. We learn in the Bible how to become Christians and live lives pleasing to God. It is a mirror which reveals to us how our spiritual lives appear before God and others.

John the Revelator records, "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand." Reading and meditating upon God's holy Word is of great value for spiritual growth. We learn from the Bible how to please God and how to keep our relationship with Him at its best. It is filled with valuable truths of righteousness and is a great blessing to us when we receive it.

It is recorded in the Bible, what is awaiting those who live in a sinful wicked life and will not receive and accept the command-

ments of God's Word.

It is the lifeline for our soul's salvation. In the beginning we have the record of the creation of the world and mankind and all living creatures. The Lord saw it was good until Satan through the serpent beguiled Eve to be disobedient to God's command. Adam also disobeyed. The results were death and banishment from the Garden of Eden and because of it, all of mankind must suffer death in this life.

It is said by one of old, sin has taken occasion and it slew me. Sin has taken people further than they want to go and cost them more than they want to pay. Are we building on the solid rock Christ Jesus or are we among those who are building on sinking sand? In the days of Noah sin and wickedness became so great, the world was filled with violence and their hearts and imaginations of their thoughts were evil continually. God felt sorry He had made man. He provided salvation for Noah and his family while the sinful and wicked people were all destroyed. Other faithful men of God who had His protection are recorded in the Old Testament.

Today, we have the instructions of the saving Gospel of Christ to avoid spending eternity in the place, where, John the Revelator described, is awaiting the sinful and wicked. John also described the place for those who live Godly in Christ Jesus, accepting His saving Gospel, the precious Bible, our life guard, to eternal glory that fortifies us to stand the storms of life's pathway.

The Saviour's call through His Word "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." He leadeth me so by day and by night, have we found it so?

Today there are many professing Christians who have accepted man-made theories in religion which are not true to the requirements of the saving Gospel of Christ. It is not the Holy Spirit who directs people to not believe Christ's Commandments. The Holy Spirit does not teach that we need not obey them all for our soul salvation. Satan sometimes appears as an angel of light.

In the saving Gospel of Christ we are told to teach and observe all things He has commanded. He will be with those to the end. Are we prepared for the first and best resurrection?

The only way to receive salvation is through obedience to the precious Gospel of Christ.

Brother J. F. Marks
RD 3 Box 509
York, PA 17402

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

The Trinity

J. H. Moore

In some of the chapters, already given, frequent reference has been made to the Trinity, the union of the three Persons,—Father, Son and Holy Ghost,—in the one Godhead. As presented to us in the Scriptures, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are equally divine, and also personally distinct from each other. In a certain, and a very important sense, the three are one, and yet, in another sense, equally important, they are three. In substance and purpose there can be no question about their oneness. In all the affairs of the universe they work together with a unity of plan, and a harmony of purpose, that is beyond the comprehension of man. Even in the creation we find them working together. In Gen. 1:26 we read; "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." The "us" and "our" are plural, and mean a plurality in the Godhead. It is also said in verse two; "And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." Here we have both the Father and the Spirit distinctly mentioned, as being together in the beginning of the creation. Turning to John 1:3, we have this statement, regarding Christ at the same period: "All things were made by him, and without him was not anything made that was made." (Also Col. 1:16.) This makes it clear that the "us," of Gen. 1:26, means the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Passing to the New Testament, we have the three clearly manifested at the baptism of Jesus (Matt. 3:16-17). Commenting on this passage, John Wesley says: "We have here a glorious manifestation of the Trinity; the Father, speaking from heaven; the Son spoken to, and the Holy Spirit descending upon him." In I Peter 1:2 we have mention of the Father, the Spirit and Jesus Christ. In the closing verse of the thirteenth chapter of II Corinthians we read: "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all." We yet mention Matt. 28:19: "Baptizing them into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost," where the doctrine of the Trinity is too clearly indicated to be misunderstood.

Jesus at one time said: "I and my Father are one" (John 10:30). In John 17:11 the same truth is reiterated, for there we are told that he prayed that his disciples might be one as he and the Father are one. And while they are spoken of as one, yet they are mentioned as doing their separate work. "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work," says the Master in John 5:17. This and other scriptures set forth the personality of the Father and the Son. For example, the

Father sent the Son into the world, and not the Son the Father. The Father provided a body for a sin offering. And even while on the cross he cried out, in deep soul-distress, to the Father. Then we further learn that the Father and the Son sent the Holy Spirit, while the Spirit sent neither of them.

Here we again cite the baptismal formula: "Baptizing them into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." To be baptized into the name of the Father, is to be baptized into him. This is also true of the Son. Hence we read in I John 2:24: "Ye also shall continue in the Father and in the Son." Being baptized into each, we are in them, and can so continue in them. Gal. 3:27 applies in this connection: "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." This is proof that we enter Christ by being baptized into him. We get into the Spirit the same way, and that is why we read: "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." (Gal. 5:25)

The three Persons in the Godhead, as presented in the baptismal formula, constitute the basis for the threefold immersion, as already shown. The three actions in baptism are in perfect accord with the three Persons in the Trinity. In a sense, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost are one, and yet they are three. Just so with baptism. It is to the unity of the three actions that Paul refers, when he says: "One Lord, one faith, and one baptism". (Eph. 4:5) As Chrysostom says: "It is one baptism in three immersions of the body." One in one sense, and three in another.

KNOW THEM THAT LABOR AMONG YOU

I Thessalonians 5:12, "And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you."

With the deeds of many of the current television preachers coming to light, we were recently reminded of the Bible verse above. Those of us who teach and preach God's Word have a responsibility to live worthy of God's Word, and likewise all Christians are responsible to "know them that labor" among them.

The plain Brethren have always chosen ministers from among their ranks, just as the early deacons in Acts 6 were picked. "Wherefore, Brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business." There is a definite advantage to knowing the life and walk of a fellow Christian, one full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom. These are far better credentials than are given at any seminary.

Those devoted "parishoners" of Mr. Bakker were no doubt

shocked to find him in an adulterous condition, but most of us who know the scope of this type of ministry and what the scriptures say were not at all surprised. But the worst thing to come to light is the fact that many of Jim and Tammy's supporters do not care what they have done, they just want them back in their television positions. The scripture says that fools make a mock of sin, and that is the situation you have when people do not put any importance upon it.

Our preaching, our teaching, and our daily lives should cry out against sin, and not condone it in any form. This is what Jesus and the Disciples did, and it is our responsibility also. In Ephesians 5:11 it says, "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." The Church should all work together with a singular purpose, and that is to preach the Gospel to every creature. We must be certain that all members are united in this regard, and in order to be certain we must know them that labour among us.

L. H. Miller
RD 2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

OBITUARY

FLOYD SWIHART

Bro. Floyd T. Swihart was born near Goshen, Indiana to E. Judson and Sarah (Long) Swihart, January 17, 1908. He died at the Goshen General Hospital, March 9, 1987.

On June 25, 1932 he was married to Maxine Rutledge in Ohio. She survives along with one son, George, Delta, Colorado and two daughters, Mrs. Dale (Ruthie) Culp, Bristol, Indiana and Mrs. Doyle (Sarah) Sattler, Colby, Kansas. He was preceded in death by one son, Joseph. He is also survived by two brothers, Noble, Montrose, Colorado and Donald, Glendora, California and two sisters, Mrs. Owen (Esther) Heeter and Clara Gunderman, both of Goshen, Indiana.

He was a minister and Elder in the Dunkard Brethren Church for many years.

Funeral services were conducted, March 11, 1987 by Elder Harley Flory assisted by Bro. Terry Gunderman. Burial was in the West Goshen Cemetery.

We wish to thank all who remembered us with cards and letters during and since our time of loss.

Sister Maxine Swihart and family

IF I HAD CONTROL

If I had control
Of things in my life,
I'd banish all pain,
All sorrow and strife.

There'd be no shadows
To darken my day - -
There would be sunshine
All along my way.

But God knows what's best,
Much more so than I -
How to prepare me
For that Home on High.

I will follow Him
And I will not fret
When my petitions
Are not answered yet.

His Spirit can lead
Wherever it will,
Down in the valley
Or up a steep hill.

With His hand in mine
I can't go astray,
I'll just hold on tight
When dark seems my way.

I'll always praise Him,
I can't be misled
Since He is with me
And knows what's ahead.

He knows it takes storms
Along with the sun
To strengthen my faith
For trials to come.

How thankful I am
I don't have control -
Now I can prepare
For rest for my soul.

And so I'll submit
To His precious plan,
Accept what He gives,
Do the best I can.

- Sister Irene Stout
Rt. 1 Box 160
Wabash, IN

NEWS ITEMS

BROADWATER CHAPEL, MARYLAND

The Lord willing, our evangelistic meeting will be held, July 24 through August 2, with the Lovefeast on August 1. Bro. Virgil Leatherman is our speaker. All are invited to attend these services and worship with us.

Sister Lavona Sines, Cor.

SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

The Shrewsbury Congregation, Lord willing, is looking forward to a revival meeting. Bro. Jan Heisey, from the Lititz, Pennsylvania Congregation will be our evangelist. The meetings will be held August 2 to August 16, with services each night at 7:30. We invite you to come, pray and worship with us during these meetings.

We enjoyed another Lovefeast on May 24, 1987. It was a day of

worship, fellowship and sharing together to carry out God's ordinances. We are thankful for the visiting ministers who preached the Word of God. The ministers were: Elder David Ebling, Elder Joshua Rice, Elder Emmert Shelly, Elder Frank Shaffer, Bro. Jan Heisey, Bro. Paul Hartz, and Elder Virgil Leatherman who officiated in the evening.

Sister Fern Ness, Cor.

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

The Lord willing, the Dallas Center Congregation is planning a two week revival service, August 9 through 23. Brother Len Wertz from Quinter, Kansas is to be our evangelist.

We plan to have all day meetings August 22 and 23, with a Lovefeast the evening of the 22.

We invite you to come and worship with us.

Sister Becky Funk, Cor.

SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

The Swallow Falls Congregation plans if the Lord willing, to hold their annual Revival Meeting and Lovefeast Services, August 14 through 23, 1987. Bro. Paul Hartz from Palmyra, Pennsylvania is to be the evangelist. The Lovefeast is scheduled for Saturday evening, August 22, 1987. The meeting will close with Sunday morning preaching service and basket lunch on the grounds.

Everyone is welcome to come and worship with us.

Sister Hallie Snyder, Cor.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to express our thanks and appreciation to all the dear Brethren and Sisters and kind Christian friends who helped to make our 60th Wedding Anniversary a joyous occasion.

We express our heartiest thanks for the many cards, letters, best wishes and prayers offered in our every behalf.

May our Heavenly Father richly bless each of you, is our earnest prayer.

In His Love,
Brother and Sister Paul R. Myers

THANK YOU

We wish to thank each one for the cards, letters, phone calls and prayers during Timothy's hospitalization and since his return home. May God bless each one.

Brother and Sister Milton Cook
and Timothy

PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

The Pleasant Home Congregation plans a revival meeting beginning Friday, August 7, 1987 to run through Sunday, August 16. Bro. Gordon Jamison of Quinter, Kansas will be the evangelist. There will be no Lovefeast at the end of this meeting.

Please join us for these meetings. Whether here or not please pray.

Sister Edith Moss, Cor.

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

The new address of Elder Paul R. Myers is: Manor Care Nursing Home, Belden Village, 5005 Higbee Ave. N.W., Canton, Ohio 44718.

MARRIAGE

STUMP - HOSTETLER

Sister Laura Jane Stump, daughter of Brother and Sister Paul Stump and Brother Steve Lynn Hostetler, son of Brother and Sister Don Hostetler were united together in holy matrimony on April 25, 1987 at 10 a.m., a precious moment of their lives shared together.

Brother Len Wertz spoke of God's perfect plan of binding husband and wife together; after which Brother Paul Stump performed the marriage ceremony.

May God's guidance and blessings go with them as they start their new lives together in His service. Their new home address is: 5603 Sweet Potato Ridge Road, Englewood, Ohio 45322.



Some children had a beautiful white pet lamb, which was stolen from them, and sold to the butcher. The children discovered the lamb first as it was being led to the slaughter. They tried to get possession of it, but the butcher would not give it to them. A gentleman, seeing the grief of the children, said, "Give them the lamb; I'll pay for him." The price was paid, the lamb was saved. This is what Christ has done for us. The lamb was helpless; the children could not redeem it, but a generous man did.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR AUGUST 1987

August 2 - A Stumbling Block To Them That Are Weak - I Cor. 8:1-13.

1. How may we become stumbling blocks? Matt. 23:13.
2. Do we need to watch ourselves lest we do become stumbling blocks? Romans 14:13.

August 9 - Preach the Gospel, Live the Gospel - I Cor. 9:1-27.

1. To whom was the Gospel to be preached? Matt. 28:19.
2. In what way can we live the Gospel? Matt. 5:16.

August 16 - Partakers of the Lord's Table - I Cor. 10:1-33.

1. Why were the Corinthians to be careful of their eating?
2. In Eph. 5:18 we have some admonition on what kind of people we can eat with.

August 23 - The Order of God - I Cor. 11:1-34.

1. Do we have to be careful whom we follow? Verse 1.
2. Importance of proper headship. Verse 3.

August 30 - The Body of Christ - I Cor. 12:1-31.

1. To what does Paul compare the Church? Verse 12.
2. What is the Church? and am I a part of it? If not how may I become a part of it? Ephesians 2.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR AUGUST 1987

August 2 - The Transfiguration - Luke 9:28, 36; II Peter 1:16-21.

1. Whom did Jesus meet on the mountain? Luke 9:30.
2. What did Peter say they saw while they were with Him on the mount? II Peter 1:16.

August 9 - Brotherly Love - Deut. 10:17-22, Matt. 22:36-40, John 15:11-21.

1. How great is God's love toward man? John 3:16.
2. What should be our standard of love? John 15:12.

August 16 - A Person of Faith - Luke 7:1-10.

1. What is faith? and how important is faith in our life? Heb. 11.
2. What should be our request when praying for more faith? Mark 9:24.

August 23 - What Road Are We On? Matt. 7:11-21, Heb. 12:12-29.

1. What does Jesus in John 14:6 tell us about the right way?
2. Is it safe to follow man? or our own thinking on this matter? Prov. 14:12.

August 30 - Our Invitation - Isaiah 1:18-20, Matt. 11:27-30, Rev. 22:12-19.

1. Whom does Christ say are to come to Him in Matt. 11:28?
2. Read in Rev. 22:17 of the last invitation or the three fold call.

Paul Stump
10340 N. Diamond Mill
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BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

MUST I BE TO JUDGMENT BROUGHT?

And must I be to judgment bro't,
And answer in that day
For ev'ry vain and idle tho't,
And ev'ry word I say?

Yes, ev'ry secret of my heart
Shall shortly be made known,
And I receive my just desert
For all that I have done.

How careful, then, ought I to live!
With what religious fear!
Who such a strict account must give
For my behavior here!

Thou awful Judge of quick and dead,
The watchful pow'r bestow;
So shall I to my ways take heed,
To all I speak or do.

If now Thou standest at the door,
O let me feel Thee near!
And make my peace with God, before
I at Thy bar appear.

- Charles Wesley

ONE LITTLE MATCH

When preparing for a barbecue, it is necessary to light a fire. The briquets after being soaked with lighter fluid are ready to ignite. All it takes to get a roaring fire is to drop one little, lit match in the midst of the flammable briquets. Within a few seconds there will be flames threatening to go beyond the bounds of the barbecue. These flames will produce a great deal of heat. Even after the flames have burned down, the white hot coals will produce enough heat to cook the food on the rack. A meal can be prepared because of one little match, lit and placed in a flammable situation.

One little match cannot only be used to accomplish a good thing like cooking a meal, it can also do a lot of harm. Only one little match or, a cigarette or even a spark can set a whole forest on fire. One tree can be made into a thousand matches but one match can destroy a thousand trees. Fires cannot only destroy trees and wildlife but also homes and businesses. Lives are lost from being in the patch of the fire or by fighting it. Just one little match can certainly cause a lot of trouble.

When around firest or hot things, if not careful we can get burned. It does not take very long or a very large area to get a real sore burn. Even the sun can produce a burn especially on fair skin. The pain associated with a burn is great. It doesn't take a bad burn to make us wish we had been more careful.

When contemplating the pain of a small burn, our minds turn to those who receive severe burns. It requires months and years for their bodies to heal. Surgery and physical therapy are needed to return the body to former usefulness.

As terrible as these major burns seem to us, there remains a fire

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and burning that is even worse. The unquenchable, eternal fire of hell is many times worse than the terrible sufferings caused by natural fires. While a physical burn might permanently scar or disable, it will have lessened effect over a period of time. The fire of Hell will be for ever. It will stand in direct contrast with the eternal bliss of Heaven. Everything that is good in Heaven will be matched by everything bad and harmful in Hell. A fire that cannot be quenched or lessened in any way will be burning there to torture those assigned a place there. Unlike fire here that eventually destroys vital organs and brings death, there will be no release from the suffering. The pain will be constant, not just for awhile but forever.

Just as it takes only one small match to start a great fire in this world, so it does not take a great wrong to bring about Hell's punishment. The sins that bring Spiritual death do not have to be notorious, infamous or of great number or seriousness. The wages of sin is death. Wages may be great or small but the result is the same. Sin may be so great as a lifetime spent in debauchery, denial or demonic activity or it may be unbelief and compromise. A match is not large neither does sin need to be large to damage or even to bring one down to Hell.

James writes of one part of the human body that is set afire by the fires of Hell. That member is the tongue. The human vocal apparatus is the cause of much trouble. A small word or story may very well lead the teller or listener or both to Spiritual death. The tongue, though a small part of the body, like a match can cause a great destruction. Unwise words can destroy friendships, wreck families, split Churches and cause hard feelings that though not only expressed can wound. Ill chosen words can be misinterpreted and bring ill will where good feelings should be.

This ill feeling among people especially Brethren can lead to not only disruption in this life but to the fires of Hell beyond. Sin is not only in expressed actions and words but in attitudes and the lack of Spiritual thoughts. Sin like the little match can bring grave consequences. The sin of hatred is as bad as and is related to the sin of murder. Hatred can just as quickly bring one down to Hell as hatred's final deed of murder.

One little match can start a fire that will cook a meal or start a fire that warms a household. That same little match can cause a fire that will destroy forests, homes, wildlife, and human lives. That little match has the same effect as sin which can lead souls not only to physical death but also to Spiritual death. As care must be taken with matches, so great care must be taken with our Spiritual lives. We want our lives to please God and to profit our fellow man.

Be careful with your matches and be careful with your life. Eternity depends upon it.

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Rejoice in the day"

"This is the day which the Lord hath made: let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalms 118:24. I love this verse. It communicates to us that we are to have joy in our lives every day. Do you? Do you know someone who really is not joyful each day of this precious life God gives us?

We were created for joy and if we miss it... we miss what God has in store for us. Jesus lived and died on this earth to restore the joy which was lost. Our chief purpose is to glorify God and praise Him forever and there is great joy in doing that. Now remember, joy is not just cheap emotional thrills or psychic indulgences. It is the discovery of the real essence of life... that perfection found in the person of Jesus Christ.

Joy is our destiny as Christians. The Lord has gone to prepare a place for us... for joy! Sometimes we almost seem hypocritical if someone seems too joyful as a Christian. After all, isn't a conservative Christian supposed to be downcast and rejected in his countenance? Rejected... are you kidding? We are the Lord's. We are His heritage. We are experiencing the fullness of life today... and life eternal.

So, what is the problem. It would almost seem that we feel that we are in a cage and that we are complaining because God put us there. We are in our own private "doghouse"... basking in fear and guilt or anger and resentment by having to live a separated life in this world.

Joy is receiving God's blessings with thanksgiving. It is, in turn, passing on his blessing to others. Desire to bless. Give out of a warm and thankful heart... and you will be joyful.

Joy is allowed by God in some of our creaturely things also. God is so great that He doesn't need to be our only joy. There is the joy of activity as well as kneeling... the joy of playing as well as praying. Every moment opens us up to the reality that life is good because God made it to be that way.

Joy is our inheritance as Christians. We need only to let the Spirit open our lives to it. I really feel that some people doubt the right of joy. That is tragic. God has made your day... this day... and He has given you the right to receive it with gratitude.

This is the day! Take it! Put a square around this date on your calendar and live it to the fullest. Today... not yesterday... when

you were small and sitting on your father's knee. Today... not tomorrow... when you are financially healthier and you finally find yourself fulfilled in your career. But now, this day, rejoice.

Not only has God made the day... but He created you for the day. You are God's gift to Himself if you are giving your life over to Him.

We have established, then, that joy is right for a Christian. But is it appropriate for the sensitive and serious conservative Christian of our time? It is all right to be joyful when we see pain, starvation, nuclear war potential, and so forth. It is my feeling that if our joy is honest joy, it is not ultimately affected by the externals of life. Only the heart can give joy. And in some ways, only a heart that has hurt experiences the ultimate that joy can give. The world sees joy of the Christian experience as clanking their tambourines or speaking in tongues but I see the emotions created by these activities as only superficial and fleeting.

I suggest you sit quietly sometime and think back to the most joyous moments in your life. Remember the perspective that created that joy and embrace it. Thank God for the joy and for the memory... and be refreshed.

As we consider this topic... we would like to reflect for a moment on a person who could be considered a "kill-joy." What makes a kill-joy? It would seem to be a person who is suspicious that he may not be virtuous enough to deserve it. By his own quest for virtue it becomes beyond his reach. This creates despair.

Another reason for being a kill-joy is that we try to carry the load of the world on our backs that only Jesus can bear. We will never be big enough to carry the world's problems and sins even though that doesn't negate our sincere and loving concern.

Finally, we become a kill-joy when we inflate problems to an unmanagable size. Some people actually seem to thrive on problematic catastrophes. But that person frequently sees God as small and not able to control all things.

The gift of joy is there for the taking. Take it! Allow it to be abundant as is illustrated in John 15:11. "Be glad in it."

Brother Len Wertz

SIXTY YEARS AGO

August 1, 1927

STABILITY IN PROGRESS

J. F. Britton

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know

that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." (I Cor. 15:58) This text has the appearance and sounds like a paradox. Nevertheless, it's true. We are told that there is a law in nature, that where life ceases, decomposition commences. Hence we are moving on through space, even while we sleep toward the end of our stay here in this world. Man was the crowning event of all of God's creation. Hence man was created for a higher and more noble purpose than to float, like atoms, through space, and then go into oblivion. Yes, man was created with great and marvelous endowments and possibilities. And these endowments and possibilities can only be developed into service and fruition, through progress which implies growth. Peter recognized the essentiality of growth when he wrote, "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." (II Peter 3:18) And too, Jesus laid down a fundamental truth when he said, "So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground: and should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how, for the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself: first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear." (Mark 4:26-28) These texts virtually have under consideration and present the same fundamental truths as Jesus expounded and propounded to Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. (See John 3:3-10) Nicodemus with all his philosophical knowledge and lore, marveled at the mysterious discourse of Jesus upon the Spiritual birth. Paul gives the reasons and the "why", Nicodemus as well as many of our Ph.D's of our day. "For they, being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God." (Rom. 10:3) "For the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." (I Cor. 2:14) These texts contract the natural man in his carnality and limitations, and the spiritual man in his Divine illuminations. It stands to reason and is logically true that "the carnal man is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then, they that are in the flesh can not please God." (Rom. 8:7) And as God is unchangeable, his laws are stable. The early life of Christ is a verification of the stability in progress. His biography reads as follows, "And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him." (Luke 2:40) It is very apparent, that Jesus was a model baby, and developed into a model boy, and was at his Father's business at the age of twelve. "And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." (Luke 2:52) Jesus grew into a model young man, and labored with

his human father in his secular vocation. And attained unto a full rounded out stature in manhood. And then launched upon his Divine mission, which he accomplished, and triumphed over death, hell and the grave. "He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men." (Eph. 4:8) And "ascended up far above all heavens", into his eternal glory. A wonderful and profound exposition of unwavering progress.

The Apostle Peter was inspired to write as follows on stability in progress, "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue: and to virtue knowledge: and to knowledge temperance: and to temperance patience: and to patience, godliness: and to godliness brotherly kindness: and to brotherly kindness charity" or love. (II Peter 1:5-7) This text or scripture sets forth seven concrete and constructive Christian graces that are to be attained through spiritual growth and development into Divine service. This idea or fact is confirmed by Peter when he said: "But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever more. Amen." (II Peter 2:18) Well could Paul exclaim, "Without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness; God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." (I Tim. 3:16) A wonderful verification of the wisdom and divinity of Christ, through the stability of progress. And Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6) Therefore, there is no way, but Jesus' way. And this being true, the personal question is, are we going the way that Jesus went? Like Enoch of old, Jesus walked and talked with his Father, because he had the testimony that he pleased God.

Do we have that testimony? That we are pleasing God by growing in Spirituality, in holiness and purity of heart and life? And can we truthfully sing:

"Jesus, my all, to heaven is gone,
He whom I fix my hopes upon:
His track I see, and I'll pursue
The narrow way till him I view.

The way the holy prophets went,
The way that leads from banishment
The king's highway of holiness,
I'll go for all his paths are peace"?



Grace makes no man proud.

REPROVING THE WORKS OF DARKNESS

Ephesians 5:11 "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

When we think of the works of darkness we usually think of such things as alcohol, tobacco, drugs, and immorality. These are certainly all issues that must be addressed but we have come to the conclusion that they are merely surface symptoms of a deeper problem. We would like to take a look at Psalm 123 in light of the subject of the works of darkness.

Verse one of this psalm, "Unto thee lift I up mine eyes, O thou that dwellest in the heavens." The unscriptural theory of evolution has entered into many modern gatherings and denominations. But this too is only a surface problem of a deeper issue. The real problem is that we have lost, for the most part, the majesty and glory of God. The writer of this psalm addresses God in the first person, "I," in this first verse. In the New Testament dispensation we have a personal relationship with God through His Son, Jesus Christ. We also have the Holy Spirit within us to lead, guide and direct our path as well as to help us better communicate with the Father. Today there are those who are willing to accept the blasphemous title of "she" for God the Father. They have lowered God the Son to a man full of sin. The blessed Holy Spirit has been lowered to a "fetch it to me" like the family dog!

Verse two, "Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress; so our eyes wait upon the Lord our God, until that he have mercy upon us." In this verse the writer changes from "I" to "our" and "us." Not only are we to have a personal relationship with God but we must work this relationship out within the framework of a body of believers if we are to be faithful to scripture. The works of darkness are made manifest when we take our eyes off of God and His Word. This is a day of "do your own thing." We are instructed that each of us are individuals and there is no need to have unity in belief and practices. But this is one of the ways that Satan has deceived the earthly church. We, too, must pray that God will have mercy upon the modern earthly church. While God is sovereign and His hand of judgment is pure, we have examples in scripture where mercy was asked for those outside of His will. While, as in our opening verse, we must reprove the works of darkness, we must do it in a spirit of love and with a broken heart. The final two verses of this psalm deals with specific examples of works of darkness within the modern earthly church.

Verse three, "Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we are exceedingly filled with contempt." Perhaps never in

history has there been so much contempt for the Holy Word of God. The most radical blasphemers describe the Bible as a book of filth and obscenity. But they are not the greatest cause for concern. A far greater work of darkness is those who accept the Bible as "a good book that teaches the same truths as the holy books of all religions." But there is even a more subtle work of darkness within the earthly church. This is those who claim to believe the Bible is the Word of God but teach that it must be understood in its historical setting.

Verse four, "Our soul is exceedingly filled with the scorning of those that are at ease, and with the contempt of the proud." Much ridicule and scorn is shown towards those who know what they believe and why they believe it. This is a day when anything that has historical backing is taught to be out of date. Some radical teachers deny that we can be sure that God has provided us with a heavenly home after we die. They leave the possibility of the unscriptural teaching of reincarnation wide open. Others are busy trying to destroy the scriptural position God has ordained to women and to pacify those who practice immodest dress. We can only truly be at ease when we are striving to follow the teachings of Holy Scripture. God does not overlook sin, as some teach, but deals with it. Sin is so terrible that Jesus Christ had to suffer and die on the cross for it. The teaching that the New Testament "is not a list of dos and don'ts" is a half truth, at best. There are many specific sins mentioned in the New Testament. Beyond these is clear instruction that we are not to be a part of this world. In place of this many within the earthly church try to see how close they can live to the pleasures of this world and still remain in the Grace of God.

Satan will try to make the works of darkness appear to be light. He has convinced many that God's way is not good enough but that we must use worldly attractions to "win souls." Because of this the earthly church is filled with "the contempt of the proud." We no longer desire to see ourselves as those who need daily cleansing from sin but are taught to love ourselves. Satan has taken one verse out of scripture and twisted it to confuse thousands of individuals. This combined with the work of darkness that says that we are not to judge any sin is one of the greatest weaknesses of the modern church.

The writer of this psalm reminds us that we all have to search our own hearts. We are not perfect except in the Lord Jesus Christ. But we must also remember that God has given us the power and the authority to reprove the works of darkness.

If you are walking in the darkness of sin we invite you to come

into the glorious light of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ by accepting salvation through His shed blood on Calvary.

James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

NO CONTINUING CITY HERE

The uncertainty of life in this world should make us realize we cannot stay here. Death is in the land and many are called from this world daily. This was allotted to mankind because of the disobedience of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. The time will come when this earth and all its contents will be utterly destroyed and according to Bible prophecy we may be near to that day. As it was in the day of Noah so shall it be when Christ returns to earth again.

Many are preparing for this life only. Earthly treasures only last for a season and are perishable. We are to put our affections on and seek those things that are above. Let us not be as the foolish virgins who were unprepared for the wedding. Jesus said, "Come unto me all ye that are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest."

Death is in the land as we are reminded daily. We cannot always stay here, yet we have the sad condition of many who are preparing for this life only. We need to put our trust in our Saviour who will go with us through the valley and shadow of death.

Referring to the faithful servants of Christ, He said, "I will go to prepare a place for you that where I am there ye may be also." What Jesus has gone to prepare for His own will be eternal. Here in this world people are building what they call mansions and we have large and beautiful cities. This is nothing compared with the great Eternal City of God.

When Jesus comes there will be no dark valley. Jesus is earnestly and tenderly calling, "Oh sinner, come home." We are *living in a time of a wicked and sinful generation and much violence is in the world. It is not God's will that any be lost but that all will come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved.*

At Christ's second coming, it will be a sad experience for those who are unprepared. They will be left to spend eternity with the Devil and his angels.

When this life is past only what we have done for eternity will last. Have we washed our robes and made them white in the blood of the lamb, to be prepared for the first and best resurrection? Have we

made our calling and election sure? Washed our robes and made them white in the blood of the lamb? Jesus said take my yoke upon you for I am meek and lowly at heart. My yoke is easy and my burden is light.

The Psalmist David gives many instructions to praise and thank God. He looked forward to the better life to come. He said, "Oh that I had wings like a dove then would I fly away and be at rest." It would be a permanent and undisturbed rest. We could refer to many other men of God of the old dispensation who looked forward to the better life to come.

The Apostle Paul, a great man of God, went through many hardships and much suffering, yet he continued to look forward to the better life to come. He referred to it as a crown of righteousness. He said when you fall into divers temptations count it all joy. When Paul and Silas were imprisoned for their services to the Lord they sang praises to God.

Other men of God in the New Dispensation looked forward to the better life to come. John the Revelator's mind was centered above the perishing things of this world.

Our Lord and Saviour in time of trouble and suffering looked forward for the time to come when He would be with the Heavenly Father preparing a place for His faithful servants. He also looked to the time He was coming back to earth to receive His faithful servants unto Himself. At the sound of the trumpet and the voice of the archangel, the dead in Christ shall rise first and those of His servants who remain alive will be caught up with Him in the air.

The earth and all its contents will be dissolved. Are we prepared for the much better life to come?

When Jesus comes to reward His servants,
Whether it be noon or night,
Faithful to Him will He find us watching,
With our lamps all trimmed and bright?

His second coming will be a sad experience for those who have prepared for life in this world only. This life will soon be past and only what we have done for eternity will last. Are we prepared for the eternal, glorious city of God?

Brother J. F. Marks
R 3 Box 509
York, PA 17402



Custom is the plague of wise men: the idol of fools.

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

Not A Debatable Question

J. H. Moore

Trine immersion can hardly be considered a debatable question. The simple fact that all leading denominations accept it as valid baptism, while there is more or less dispute about other modes, is the most convincing argument in defense of its being the true and original form, for it is hardly conceivable that the best thinkers in the religious world would happen to agree upon the very practice that is wrong.

Trine immersion is quite satisfactory to the churches that have adopted this form of baptism, and if it is sufficiently satisfactory for other religious bodies to accept it without question, what more should any one ask? If it is accepted, practically everywhere, then it becomes evident that it is not a debatable question. Those using the mode know that their baptism passes in all the leading churches, and when a baptism has proved itself good enough for that purpose, it is most assuredly above controversy, and ceases to be a matter of dispute. This must appear evident to any one who gives the matter any consideration whatever.

When an administrator takes his applicant into the water and says, "I baptize thee into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost," dipping his one time only, there are always doubts in the minds of some as to whether the administrator really did what he said he would do. But when another takes his candidate into the water, repeating the same form of words, and then dips his candidate at the mention of each name, there is never any controversy about his actions not lining up with his form of words. The controversy will be about the former and not about the latter. In the threefold form of immersion we offer a baptism whose validity is unchallenged by ninety-nine per cent of Christendom. In the matter of baptism it is the best there is, and certainly no one will care to look for anything better.

IT IS LATER THAN YOU THINK

I do feel, dear ones, we are living in the last days. We can't think of a time when the world was in a worse state than it is today. So much evil is going on. Little children are being raped, being killed and being kidnapped. People and stores are being robbed. It seems there is no end to the violence going on. People are afraid to go out on the street even in daylight, for fear they will be molested. School children are afraid to go to school. So many young boys

and girls are on dope and have drinking problems of which their parents are not aware. Many are living together as man and wife with small children and have never been married. Oh, the sin they are committing every day. Some claim to be people who once loved the Lord and started out giving their life to Christ but now never go to church.

When we read of Noah and the ark, we read of people who would not harken to the Word of God. I am sure when Noah and his family entered the ark, the people were confused, but it was too late. The door of the ark was closed and they were lost.

Dear ones, if you are still wandering out there in sin there is a way of escape, for the door is still open. But if it is later than we are aware of, then the way to Christ may soon be closed and you won't have another chance.

Christ gave His precious life on the cross to save you. Are you doing anything about it? Are you counting the cost? It does not cost as much to follow Christ, for in the end you will receive a reward, a home in Heaven. If you are on the road Satan has, you will receive as your reward a home in Hell, where you will burn forever and ever.

Won't you stop and think about those two places? Then make your way to the house of the Lord and start on the road that will give you a home of joy and peace.

Jeremiah 6:16, "Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein." Here they were in sin but were not willing to harken. They were destroyed.

If we turn our backs on Christ we are lost. Are we spreading the Gospel to those who are lost? There are so many places we could go and reach the unsaved. Are we willing to give of our time to get the message of salvation to the lost?

In the early Church they had services in a home if there was no other place to hold services. Sometimes services were even held in a barn. Chairs were brought in and they would have a large crowd and many were won to Christ. They so desired to spread the Gospel to all those they could reach. Before long they had enough members to start a church in that place. I often wonder why that could not be done today. There are many today who are hungry to hear the message of salvation. Is this a Christian America?

Sister E. M. Alltus



Can pride and grace dwell in one place?

“DADDY”

The warm fire sent flames up into the darkness. The sparks seemed to lead our eyes up into the heavens where God was displaying his magnificent handiwork of stars and fluffy floating clouds. There had been an air of sweetness in the worship in song and Retreat '87 was about to draw to a close. Several young people and staff began to sing a song called “Daddy” and a contemplative stillness swept across the group. Tears flowed freely as emotions swept back home to parents who loved these young people so much and these emotions were reciprocated.

After the service, one young man sat down and penned the following words which were read at morning worship the following day.

His mother has not read these words but as she does she will understand the deep emotions of a young man searching his life and seeking out God and understanding. I pray that you will be blessed as you read and that you, too, will share this moment of beauty that we shared at Camp Colorado.

“Last night we all shared a love so great most people wouldn't understand it. I believe there is only one kind of love that even compares to the love we shared last night... and that is the love that our parents give us. Our parents are the closest true love that we can have besides the love that God gives us.

I know that many times we wish our parents weren't around and for myself, I find that I disrespect my mother and her headship over me many times. Sometimes I wonder why she hasn't kicked me out to go live with the world... and just say, 'who cares about him!' I know others have said that... but my mom hasn't... because she loves me.

Then you wonder why... if I know that she loves me... why do I continue to upset and disrespect my mother? I do it partially out of pure rebellion but I never had a father to teach me things that fathers do... to keep me in line... and to explain to me that certain things are dangerous and should be kept away from. For many of you, your father is the one whom you look up to... even though you may fight occasionally. For most young people, their father is someone who they can go to to 'just talk'... to get answers to questions... and even for protection. Without a father my life seems to have just been a gigantic experiment by trial and error. I have no physical father to turn to. For those of you that have fathers... **BE THANKFUL.**

What inspired me to write this was a song sung last night called “Daddy, I Miss You”... because for me... all that is left of my dad is a tombstone... and I want the rest of you to enjoy your parents... for

one day they will be gone and you, too, will be singing, "Daddy, I Miss You!"

Before we leave retreat, I would enjoy it if those who sang "Daddy, I Miss You" would sing it again... but this time with everybody thinking about the relationship and value of their parents to them... especially your DADDY!"

"HONOUR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER: THAT THY DAYS MAY BE LONG UPON THE LAND WHICH THE LORD THY GOD GIVETH THEE." Exodus 20:12.

a son... and Brother Len Wertz

NEWS ITEMS

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Lord willing, we the Grandview Congregation are looking forward to our Revival Meetings beginning August 30 and ending September 6. Bro. Jan Heisey has consented to be our evangelist. We will have our Lovefeast service on Saturday with communion in the evening. There will be services Sunday morning and afternoon also. Anyone is welcome!

Sister Mary Lou Kasza, Cor.

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing the Waynesboro Congregation plans a Revival Meeting starting September 6 through 13. Bro. Henry Walker from the Pleasant Home Congregation, Modesto, California will be the speaker.

We invite all who can to come and enjoy these meetings with us.

Sister Wilma Eberly, Cor.

GOSHEN, INDIANA

The Lord willing, the Goshen Congregation is planning Harvest Meeting for September 6 with Brother Robert Carpenter as the speaker. All are invited to attend.

Sister Sharon Swihart, Cor.

NOTICE

Tapes have been made of the sermons and singing from 1987 General Conference. These may be ordered by mail or phone for \$1.50 per tape of two sermons or a full set including seventeen sermons and two singing tapes (\$16.50) from Sis. Vera Pike, 12967 SH 108, Wauseon, Ohio 43567. Telephone: 419-337-6251.

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BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH

Up and onward, Christian soldier,
Hear thy Lord's divine command;
Be thou ready when He calls thee
In the foremost ranks to stand.

Up and onward, Christian soldier,
To the conflict and the strife;
God will test thy zeal and courage,
Ere thou enter into life.

Up and onward, be not weary,
Do not lay thy armor down,
Thou must fight the battle bravely,
Ere thy soul can wear a crown.

Up and onward, firm and fearless,
Like the vet'rans of the past;
Then, thro' Him whose grace redeems thee,
Thou shalt overcome at last.

- Sallie Martin

PUTTING ALL THE PIECES TOGETHER

When putting a jig saw puzzle together, it is not finished until every piece has been located and correctly placed. A puzzle missing even just one piece is incomplete. The picture is not whole so it loses value. Every effort is made to find all the pieces and to find the correct place for each one. A piece that is put in incorrectly, although it may look right at the time, will slow down the completion of the total picture. A wrongly placed piece will create a false confidence that the picture is nearer complete than what it really is. The wrongly placed piece will keep other pieces from fitting like they should. So all the pieces must be put together and they must be right or the whole picture will never be right.

When Henry Ford had Greenfield Village constructed, he had many structures moved from their original sites to their current resting place in Michigan. These buildings whether constructed of stone, wood or brick were torn down on their original sites and numbered so they could be reassembled exactly the same way as they had existed at their original site. These buildings are exactly as they were at another location. It was painstaking work to carefully take down, number and reassemble these buildings a piece at a time. These buildings were not complete until each piece had been placed exactly where it belonged.

There are many other projects that require precision in putting together so everything is just right when completed. Our Spiritual lives also require a great deal of effort to put all the pieces together correctly. Often we do not use as much care in our Spiritual lives as we do in many of our temporal pursuits. If we were to put a jig saw puzzle together the way we put our Spiritual lives together,

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how would it look? Would it be a beautiful, complete picture or would it be a misshapen, incomplete picture that would please no one?

There are many elements that go into the complete, balanced Spiritual life. The Christian life must have a Biblical foundation. There must be an undergirding of doctrine or that life will be futile for it will have no purpose or basis. Doctrine is a far-ranging area including the reason for and resolution of the need of each man for salvation down to the precise rule for man's daily living. There must not only be a knowledge of what doctrines are observed, but why. There is an interrelationship between the various doctrines of the Church. The doctrines do not stand alone but each fills a needed place in the foundation of the Christian life.

Doctrine alone is not sufficient to produce a total Christian life. Doctrinal knowledge will produce nothing if it is not put into effect in each life. Hearing and learning must be followed by doing what is known. If knowledge produces no action then it is useless. Christian lives are active lives. Although Christians must use great care in their companionships, amusements and activities, the Christian life is not designed to be a hermit's existence. There must be interaction with those living near by. A self-centered Christian life will not fulfill the evangelistic duty given to each Christian. This duty may not mean a wide or far-away activity but it does mean a life lived among those who are around us.

Christian sharing goes beyond the sharing of the Gospel. There is also a time and place for the sharing of temporal riches. Sharing on an individual or congregational basis can have great results in the lives of others, often opening the way for sharing Spiritual riches also. Social concerns do not need to include political activity. A personal care is far more effective than a governmental or bureaucratic effort. That concern must be born out of a true doctrinal foundation and a love and care for the individual's need.

All the pieces must be brought together in the Christian life. There must be a balance among the various parts. Doctrinal purity without Spiritual activity leads nowhere, for the Christian life is based on the working together of the whole body. Most doctrines cannot be carried out by the individual. Social action without a doctrinal foundation is just activity without purpose. There has to be a balanced blending of every piece in the Christian's life.

Are there pieces missing or misplaced in your Christian life? It takes all the pieces in the right places to make the picture complete. How does your picture look?

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Simply..... Matthew Eighteen

Jesus, in His infinite knowledge, knew the human personality and spirit. He was sensitive in understanding that because the Church was made up of humans there would be problems with interpersonal relationships. For this reason, He gave us a divine method of solving problems that has proved effective ever since it was written. It worked in the early church and it works equally effectively in our day. It can increase our spiritual awareness of taking chances... even in difficult relationships... because we have confidence that harmony and peace is attainable.

Jesus taught us that it was obvious that offenses would come. How these problems are disposed of is the issue covered here.

Many times Matthew 18 is misused. We use its principles mechanically and it creates further chaos. I feel it is also used at times to support a person's habit of constant faultfinding and back-biting. Satan can give man a wrong attitude in even this beautiful formula for unity and make it a disaster.

Matthew 18 solutions apply only to the committed Christian. It will be ineffective if we exercise it without practicing it in the Spirit. If we are not totally sincere in our motives the offenses will not be eliminated. What motives am I relating to? First of all there has to be the "spirit of meekness." (Gal. 6:1) Meekness will place us in the lowest position of the reconciliation process. It will let us see the importance of the other person and will give us a real desire to restore him to usefulness in the service of the King.

Secondly, we must be motivated by love. Love will be the force that will cement the full process together. It will show that Jesus is in it from the beginning to the end.

What process is to be followed? We are taught that there first must be a "one-on-one" confrontation. If this is not effective, then one or two brethren will be taken along. Ultimately the matter would need to be brought before the church as a final step. Should it really ever get to the final step? I don't believe so. If we are following in the steps of the Saviour we will reconcile our difference long before then. If we are functioning out of humanistic self motivation then step three will be necessary.

Is there a problem that cannot be solved in this way? No! Even if several individuals are involved and it becomes very complicated... this plan, if used in the spirit in which it is written, is foolproof. It, of course, must be accompanied by prayer and in some cases by fasting. But if you are really committed to results being obtained by it... they will happen. This is Heaven's ordained plan. If we are

following the dictates of God's Word, we will follow these instructions. We will be blessed in fulfilling the command to be our "brother's keeper." We will be allowed a glimpse into the very mind and will of God. And... we will find peace and happiness.

Jesus prayed for our unity. Paul rebuked divisions among Christians. Nowhere do we see where the church can function if our relationships with others are below the standards God has set for us. Satan has routinely used divisions among members to handicap the progress of our spirituality and the dissemination of the gospel. Competition is one of the greatest causes of discension among members and leads to breakdown in communication. We have the common basis for unity. It is Jesus. It is fellowship and sharing one with another. Problems seldom degenerate to intolerance if a person is sharing, fellowshiping and praying for other individuals. MATTHEW 18 IS GOD'S WAY. IT LEADS TO NEITHER EXCOMMUNICATION NOR SELF-RIGHTEOUS OSTRACISM... BUT TO GROWTH IN GRACE. IT WORKS!

Brother Len Wertz

GOD'S WAY

When God created man
He pronounced him good,
But man disobeyed God
He ate forbidden food.

The sin which was committed
Destroyed God's entire plan,
Eden's garden He created
For the benefit of man.

Since God forbid a sin
To be a part of Eden,
God banished Eve and Adam,
From the beauty of the Garden.

Because of Adam's sin
Falling on man-kind,
A remedy was provided,
Originating in God's mind.

There was no other way
To get freedom from our sins,
Christ died upon the Cross,
That vict'ry we might win.

The plan has been provided
It's up to us to choose,
Whether we want to accept it
If not, Salvation we'll lose.

Eternity is an endless time
Choose wisely where we spend it,
For we have no second choice,
Once made, we can not change it.

If we reach the pearly gates
T'will be joy beyond measure,
If we're cast in outer darkness,
We will lose our heavenly treasure.

Each of us must make decisions,
While in this life we live
Let's make them for our Saviour,
Who has Eternal Life to give.

- Brother Paul R. Myers

1987 GENERAL CONFERENCE SERMON NOTES

SATURDAY P.M.

Bro. Ronald Marks (Pennsylvania) opened. Psalms 42. We are to learn of the Lord. Our faith might get a little thin at times. We must come to ourselves and find God is still there.

Bro. Milton Cook (California). Genesis 1. We are here because God has created us. God said all His creation is good. The last book of Genesis tells us of death. Jospheh lived to be 110 years old. Something happened between the first and the last chapter of Genesis. The book of Genesis ended in death. As we make the journey of this life it is much like the book of Genesis. Too many times we depend on false hopes. Job many times realized God had control and he trusted in God and never forgot Him through all his trials. Life was not just a living vapor for Job. He had a hope a better hope after he would leave this world. The jailer asked the Apostle Paul what he must do to be saved. The Apostle Paul told him to repent and be baptized. Philip preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Eunuch. The Eunuch was converted and told Philip here is water what hinders me to be baptized? We have a life to live and a work to do. We have a hope like Job of old. We have the hope of the great resurrection. We must be sure we can have a hope and not be living in a hopeless rut. We must be ready to teach all people who have no hope that there a great Redeemer, our Christ.

Bro. Henry Walker (California). John 5:1-9. God has a special message. The compassion of Jesus was to help all who were lost. Jesus had compassion for the man who was an invalid. Jesus told him to rise and take up his bed and walk. He was made whole after thirty-eight years of infirmity. Jesus asks us, "Wilt thou be made whole?" We must have compassion for those about us. What are we doing for Christ today? Let Jesus speak to each one of you and follow Him. Have compassion for each of those who know not Jesus. No one had compassion for the Prodigal son. His earthly father prayed he would come home. His father had compassion for his son. No one had compassion for Lazarus who laid at the rich man's gate. The dogs came and licked his sores while laying at the gate. Lazarus prayed that the rich man would give him the crumbs that fell from his table. If we become a little luke warm let us look unto God for His help and be able to have compassion for others.

Bro. Michael Wray (California) closed. If we are going to have compassion we must have hope in our Heavenly Father. He had great compassion for us when He gave His only Son that we might live. Salvation is free. We must be willing to walk the ways of Jesus Christ.

SATURDAY EVENING

Elder Dale Jamison (Kansas) opened. I Corinthians 13. We must keep ourselves in right thinking. We need to testify for God. There are many lessons to be gleaned from the early church.

Elder Paul Stump (Ohio). Romans 6. A surrendered life. We should love one another. How much have we surrendered when we become a Christian? Do we surrender all sins of the world? Have we surrendered our attitude of life, as to how we might let our light shine out in the world? How is our life hid in God? It is easy for us to keep His commandments if we have surrendered our life to Him. Our life should shine bright when we go out into the world. The Son of God loved us and gave His life for us. If we are dead to sin we can live for Christ. When Noah was told to build the ark by God, he did not question God. We must be willing to accept the Word of God. David said "My cup runneth over." Too many people have their cup upside down. We must obey the commandments to all our ability. The Apostle Paul was stricken down before he had his great conversion to follow Christ and His teachings. If we surrender all, we can follow Christ. Job surrendered all to the Lord. Later he was blessed by God. Jesus surrendered all when He came to the cross. Jesus died for the sins of all of us. We should say if it be the Lord's will we will do it. We must not take things into our own hands. We must put the Heavenly Father first. Has any thing come between us and God? We must watch out for false prophets.

We should be an observing people. The Christian life is a happy life. With a surrendered life, working for the Lord and being a service for Him we can live a happy Christian life. We must submit ourselves one to the other and we will do the will of God. Why aren't we as concerned about God's law as we are the law of the land? We must be concerned about keeping the laws of God. God sees us all the time. We cannot fool God. We should live true and faithful.

Elder Warren Smith (Colorado) closed. Would we be willing to give all our earthly possessions as a sacrifice for our Heavenly Father?

SUNDAY A.M.

Elder Jacob Ness (Pennsylvania) opened. II Peter 1:1-15. We are living in a time of search for success. If we fail to use Peter's admonition in the Holy Word we will fail.

Elder Ora Skiles (California). I Peter 1:1-3, I Corinthians 1:1-3. Heaven Bound. If Christ had not rose again we would not be here today. Satan had a great victory right from the beginning. Adam and Eve had to be put out of the Garden of Eden because they sinned. God's master plan was the Eternal Heaven for us. How do we know God wants us in Heaven? God has a perfect right to claim us. Christ said, "Where I am there you may be also." God said, "Wide is the gate that leads to destruction, narrow is the way and few there will be that will find it." Are we on the road to Heaven with a clear conscience? Christ came to this world to lead us on the right road to Heaven. What will we do with the days we have left here on earth? Let's serve our Heavenly Father and live faithful to the end. If we want to be on the road to Heaven we must be born again. We must accept Jesus and follow Him.

Elder Allen Eberly (Pennsylvania). Jeremiah 6:4, Acts 1:1. None of us have the promise of tomorrow. We are to occupy the time till Jesus comes. The Holy Word says, "Set thy house in order till I come." Its work of the Church to evangelize the Church today. The Apostle Paul told the Church there should be no divisions among them. We are supposed to be a living testimony for Christ. How can we show people we are a born again Christian? We must be separate from the world. We should be careful not to gossip. We must control our human nature. More people are run down by gossip than any other way. Jesus established the Church for us. The Apostle Paul said, "Let brotherly love be in you." Do we show others how we need them? We must be careful of false prophets. We must pull together as the train on the track and be all of one mind. We must be willing to accept the doctrines of the Church. The Church is the only soul saving station on this earth.

Elder Frank Shaffer (Pennsylvania) closed. Jesus opened the gap that we may enter into Heaven. When Jesus came the true light came.

To be continued
Sister Alice Heisey

SIXTY YEARS AGO

August 15, 1927

WHAT THEN?

Anna Studer

During the sixteenth century, in the city of Rome, lived an eminent Christian philosopher, named De Neri, and many people came to this wise man to tell him of their plans and to ask his advice.

On one occasion a student came to him and laid before him his plans for the future, when he had finished the old philosopher said: "Well suppose you succeed in your studies and finish your course with honor, what then?" The young man replied that he would then be prepared to take up some profession of position of usefulness. "And what then?" again questioned De Neri. The youth still looked forward to the high renown and honor that would by this time be his. And "What then?" still questioned the philosopher. Oh, then he would be an old man and would spend the rest of his life in retirement with kind friends. "What then?" solemnly asked the wise old man. After a long pause the young man slowly replied, "Then I suppose I must die." And "what then?" came again in still more solemn tone. But there was no reply. The young man thought his plans were complete and covered every condition of life, but endless life which lies beyond the grave, he had failed to plan for.

Dear reader, may not many of us apply this story to ourselves? In our eagerness to get an education or to gain wealth or pleasure or fame, how apt we are to crowd our minds and lives full to overflowing with the things that pertain to this life only and neglect that which we are commanded to seek first? When we are inclined to be over-anxious for the things of life let us read Matt. 6:25-34.

And even though by being anxious or by industry we accomplish all our desires, and succeed in acquiring wealth, wisdom and honor even to the extent that Solomon did, can it bring real joy or contentment in this life or in the life which is to come and if not, what then?

Then why should we not be satisfied with the humble and lowly things of life, and seek after more love which is the test of

discipleship and of far greater value? The Bible says that "Godliness with contentment is great gain." And why is there so little of this priceless gain, even among those professing Godliness? May it not be because many of us have lost our first love, our love for God and his church, and have substituted too much love for the world? (John 2:15) If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him..." And again (John 5:3) "For this is the love of God that we keep his commandments."

And because of this love nothing that he asks of us will be refused or done grudgingly but willingly. And if the church in Conference, by the guidance of God's spirit, asks us to do, or not do, something that will separate us from the world, this same love will cause us to willingly obey. But if we refuse and continue to dress and do just as near like the world as we can, does it not show where our love is, whether for God or for the world? And if any one thinks that the Holy Spirit did not direct these Conference decisions, tell me, dear reader, whose spirit did?

Could it have been the evil spirit? Does Satan want us to be different from the world? We think not. Then it could have been none other than God's Spirit, and if we disobey His Holy Spirit, what then? And if we deny Jesus before men by refusing to come out from among the world, and be separate, will he not deny us before his Father in the day of judgment? And, what then, yes, dear brother and sister, what then?

LOVE — THE MISSING FACTOR?

John 13:35 "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

I John 4:8 "He that loveth not knoweth not God: for God is love."

I John 2:4-5 "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know ye that we are in him."

The worldly radio stations, television programs and movie houses, according to reports and advertisements, are filled with the theme of love. Book stores are filled with books containing love stories. In the vast majority of churches very few Sundays go by that the theme of the sermon is not the love of God. With all this talk about love how can we ask the question as to whether or not love is the missing factor in the world today?

Part of the problem is defining the word "love." Unlike some other languages, including the Greek, our English language uses the same word to mean several different things. The word "love" can refer to carnal or sexual love, a very close friendship, or the

type of love that only God can produce in our hearts. In our day and age it can even refer to preferring a certain kind of food or other material desire. Because of this and the popular use of the word it has, like many other good Bible terms, become almost meaningless today. However, despite this we believe that there is a real need of a renewal of love in our churches today.

Our first verse tells that this is how men will know if we are disciples of Christ. This is a time of great turmoil within the earthly church. Perhaps at no other time in history has there been so many different denominations and splinter groups. This is true despite the recent mergers of some large denominations. Some groups have split almost literally "at the drop of a hat." Many small group prayer meetings are resulting in the forming of new groups. While this is a subject within itself, and we will have a little more to say about it later on, is it any wonder that many non-Christians ask where our love is? Sadly, even within the organized groups and denominations there seems to be more debate than love. With this in mind let us now look at our second verse.

If our first verse causes us to search our hearts, our second verse should cause us some alarm. It clearly says if we do not love then we do not know God. Perhaps we might be accused of compromise, but we have long come to the decision that God is the only final judge of an individual's eternal destiny. This does not mean that we must include all religions and even those who deny that there is a God. The Bible has already judged them, we only have to quote it. Likewise, the Bible holds out no hope for those who refuse to acknowledge such things as the virgin birth, the bodily resurrection of our Lord, and salvation through His shed blood on Calvary. Some will ask for chapter and verse to prove this. We could fill many pages with scripture to prove that this is so. But as a man once wisely said, "A man convinced against his will, remains of the same opinion still." If we truly love these individuals we will not allow them to feel secure in their error, but will share the truth of God's Word with them. The Bible teaches that a Christian must even love his enemies. While those who would destroy our property and hurt those that we love are certainly our enemies, perhaps our greatest enemies are those who seek to destroy spiritual truth. This causes a real problem in our thinking. We believe that our love for Christ's disciples is a different type of love than that that we have for our enemies. But is a true disciple of Christ only those who act and believe exactly as we do? We have come to love and appreciate some individuals who hold some views that are very different from our own. We have even found that among those that we most closely agree with there is some difference of interpretation among us. Can we disagree

and still have agape love for one another? We have come to the conclusion that not only can we, but we MUST. This brings us to our final two verses.

These verses contain some very strong language, and we would certainly not desire to "water down" the Word of God. These verses clearly say that if we claim to love God and do not keep His commandments we are liars and do not really know Him. Is there such a thing as disobeying because of ignorance? Perhaps we are "stepping on thin ice" but we believe this may be possible. In John 14:15 Jesus Christ says, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." We believe the greatest lack of love in the earthly church is a true love for Jesus Christ. We do not believe we can truly love Him without also loving the written word, the Holy Bible. Some are more concerned about "keeping the rules of the church" than loving Jesus Christ. Others are bound with forms and rituals in place of truly loving Jesus Christ. Some claim to love Christ while following the way of the world. The Bible says this can not be. (What this says about the salvation of some is difficult to say. We are glad God does the final judging.) Some claim to love Jesus MORE than the written word. This is merely confusion.

The greatest love ever shown was when God gave His Son Jesus Christ to die for our sins. Have you accepted this love? If you have do you now seek to express the love you are to have for Him by obeying the Holy Word? Is our concern for one another shown with love or hate? Let us seek to follow Christ and His way of love.

James M. Hite
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SOWING

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." Gal. 6:7-8. If we are inspired when we hear a good sermon, good seed has been sown.

A farmer prepares the ground, then sows the good seed and expects a good harvest. We should also expect some results when we spread the good news of salvation to the world. Are we reaping the harvest the Lord expects? If not, why not? In the parable about the sower there are three essentials, sower, seed and soil. It is the same in our spiritual lives. The sower has to be inspired so he will be sure to prepare the grounds well, and see that the seed is good so it will produce and bring in a good crop.

We are to be aware of weeds and anything that would hinder the

growth so we can have a good crop. Today, one has to be careful that the enemy doesn't come and destroy the work that has been done. The devil is sowing tares. Let us be awake and busy, not drowsy or sleepy, because Satan is watching for a chance to come in and sow wild oats.

We all remember what happened to Adam and Eve. He must have gotten to Eve, when she was not thinking as she should have been. The devil came in the form of a serpent, and she believed him and ate of the forbidden fruit.

Satan is always watching to see a way he can get into our lives. This is how he operates and he is doing a good job of it today. I suppose Eve wondered if the Lord really meant she should not eat of that fruit. Dear ones, this fall separated them from God. The same thing happened to the Prodigal son. Let each of us be very careful that we don't wander too far away.

If we are out trying to rescue the ones who are out in sin, we must daily be on our guard. He is working in the Church today and we see so many, who once obeyed the words given by Christ for His Church to follow that have dropped many of these commandments and gone off into amusements and having other things in the Church. Little by little, Satan is winning them.

But dear ones, what is inside in the heart is what counts. We are to give Him our whole heart. If the devil is there it will show. I believe the devil found great joy in the Prodigal Son's life. He was trying to find something that would satisfy. He realized he was not on the road that would lead him home. Oh, how he longed to go back home. But he made the change and came back home. Dear ones away from Christ, you too can come back like this son did before it is too late. When you do, you will be inspired and the Lord will be dearer than He ever has been. Now you will have the things that are satisfying and you will have peace.

Dear ones, if you are out there somewhere without Christ, won't you stop for awhile and see yourself as you are, without hope, lost in sin and with no chance to enter that Home Christ has prepared for His children. Oh, the joy the Prodigal Son must have had when he told the father he wanted to return. That is when the joy inside begins to shine out and starts to bear good fruit.

Good seed had been sown, but the enemy had entered and sown wild oats and crowded out the good seed. Oh, dear ones, come and find the Dear Lord today. Today is the day of salvation. Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth. Then Satan won't get a hold on your life.

Sister E. M. Alltus

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

Bowing in Baptism

J. H. Moore

If there is any one thing, mentioned in the Scriptures, that is more clearly settled than any other, it is the fact that the Lord never authorized the performance of a duty backwards. When the children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, under the leadership of Moses, they were told to "go forward." (Ex. 14:15), and forward they went, with the waters of the sea standing up in heaps. (Psa. 78:13) Paul, in I Cor. 10:2, cites this instance as typical of Christian baptism, saying that they, the Israelites, "were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea." In Jer. 7:24 we read of those who "hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward."

Paul, in Rom. 6:3 says "that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death." In verse 5 he says, "In the likeness of his death."

Baptism is a burial, but it is in the likeness of the death of the Savior who, when he died on the cross, "bowed his head, and gave up the ghost." (John 19:30) In the water of baptism, the applicant, who is baptized in the likeness of the Savior's death, bows as Jesus did, and in this act gives up the world, and its evils, as surely as the Lord of glory gave up his life.

Not only do the Scriptures, and even reason itself, favor the forward action in baptism, but all known history, applying to the subject, is on that side of the question. A number of quotations might be given, but we will let one from Dr. Adoniram Judson, a Baptist writer, and a widely-known missionary, suffice. In his work on baptism, pages 112 and 113, he says:

"All the Baptists in the world, who have sprung from the English Baptists, have practiced the backward posture. But from the beginning it was not so. In the apostolic times the administrator placed his right hand on the head of the candidate, who then, under the pressure of the administrator's hand, bowed forward, aided by the genuflection which instinctively comes to one's aid, when attempting to bow in that position, until his head was submerged, and then rose by his own efforts." In fact, the backward action in baptism cannot be traced to any earlier date than about the time of the Reformation. It is, therefore, of quite recent origin.

ANOINTING SERVICE

James 5:14-15

All members of the body of Christ, have this blessed privilege of the anointing service if they become ill or afflicted.

The Elders of the Church have been given special power and responsibility by the laying on of hands and of prayer, when they were ordained.

When the Elders are called for the anointing service they pray for the sick person. They then ask him if he is in good standing with the Church. If he answers, "Yes," they then anoint him with the oil, which becomes a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

After anointing with oil, the Elders lay hands on the sick even as the disciples in the Bible times did, and pray over him. If it is the Lord's will, the person who is ill, will be healed and if he has committed any sins, they will be forgiven him. God knows all things and will do for the sick whatever is best for him.

The anointing service when entered into faith is an uplifting experience, which has brought great blessings to many.

Sister Maxine Surbey

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Bethel Congregation enjoyed a Lovefeast, May 9, 1987 with these visiting ministers: Presiding Elder Eugene Kauffman, Frank Shaffer, Virgil Leatherman, Rudy Shaffer, Jan Heisey, Merle Sweitzer and Ronald Marks. Bro. Leatherman officiated in the evening.

We are looking forward to a series of Revival Meetings beginning, Monday, September 14 to September 27 with Elder Fred Pifer, Dallas Center, Iowa as the evangelist.

We invite anyone who can to come and worship with us.

Sister Fern Kegerreis, Cor.

MARRIAGE

BLOCHER - STALTER

Bro. Ralph Stalter, son of Larry and Dana Stalter, Wakarusa, Indiana and Sis. Rebecca Blocher, daughter of Earl and Dorothy Blocher, New Paris, Ohio were united in marriage, July 4, 1987 by Bro. Jan Heisey at the Stelvideo Grange, Stelvideo, Ohio. They are residing at 10965 Kern Road, Osceola, Indiana 46561.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR SEPTEMBER 1987

September 6 - Charity - I Corinthians 13:1-13.

1. What is charity?
2. Read I Peter 4:8 for what charity will do for God's people.

September 13 - Prophesying - I Corinthians 14:1-40.

1. Why is the gift of preaching so important? Matt. 28:19-20.
2. Who is to preach? Rom. 10:13-15.

September 20 - Christ is Risen from the Dead - I Cor. 15:1-58, I Cor. 16:1-24.

1. How important is it that we believe in the resurrection? Rom. 4:25.
2. Did the Church at Corinth all believe in the resurrection? I Cor. 15:12.

September 27 - Forgiveness and Comfort - II Cor. 1:1-24, II Cor. 2:1-17.

1. How important is it that we practice forgiveness? Matt. 6:14-15.
2. How often shall we forgive? Matt. 18:21-22.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR SEPTEMBER 1987

September 6 - A Goodly Pearl - Matt. 13:44-46, Col. 2:6-10, Mal. 3:17.

1. What is the goodly pearl? Mal. 3:17, Isaiah 62:3, Deut. 32:10.
2. Why is the Pearl of Great Price so precious? Matt. 16:26.

September 13 - Our Confession - Matt. 16:15-28.

1. What does Rom. 10:9 have to say about our confession?
2. I John 4:15 tells us what takes place when we confess Christ.

September 20 - Our Mercy Showing - Matt. 18:21-35.

1. What is mercy and in what way do we show mercy?
2. In the lesson what happened to the Servant who did not show mercy?

September 27 - The Two Sons - Matt. 21:23-32.

1. What lesson was Jesus teaching in this Parable?
2. Deut. 10 tells us our duty to God.

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXV

SEPTEMBER 1, 1987

NO. 17

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

DOES JESUS CARE?

Does Jesus care when my heart is pained
Too deeply for mirth and song;
As the burdens press, and the cares distress,
And the way grows weary and long?

Does Jesus care when my way is dark
With a nameless dread and fear?
As the daylight fades into deep night shades,
Does He care enough to be near?

Does Jesus care when I've tried and failed
To resist some temptation strong;
When for my deep grief I find no relief,
Tho' my tears flow all the night long?

Does Jesus care when I've said "good-by"
To the dearest on earth to me,
And my sad heart aches till it nearly breaks
Is it aught to Him? Does He see?

O yes, He cares; I know He cares,
His heart is touched with my grief;
When the days are weary, the long nights dreary,
I know my Savior cares.

- Frank E. Graeff

DISASTERS

It seems that daily we hear of disasters somewhere in the world. Whether natural or mechanical, a number of lives are lost and there is a disruption of lifestyles for many more. Earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, floods and blizzards are among the disasters that strike people and kill, maim or disrupt. Fires, crashes, sinkings or collapses occur to disrupt others. There are also other disasters that affect people. There may be financial, employment or labor disruptions that may bother people. Sickness, death and injury come to disturb people's ordinary lives.

It is common to think that these disasters either happen a long way off or they affect only someone else. We have the feeling that somehow we will not be affected as others. We may even live dangerously, thinking that though others may be touched, we will escape. We may pity or agonize over another's accident, sorrow or loss but still feel ourselves to be invincible.

Disasters hit all people. Just as God gives material blessings to all, good or evil, so disasters come upon all. Christians have serious situations to face just as the wicked do. Death, poverty, disease and accident are the lot of all. But the Christian's response to these situations can be different.

When the unbeliever is affected with these situations, he often accuses God. He curses God or questions His motives. The Christian, although not understanding why these afflictions must come upon him, may repose in the thought that God is able to deliver. The Christian has a view that goes beyond the immediate situation. By the eye of faith he can see that God will work everything out for the best. His view is an eternal view. He realizes

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that this life is but a speck in the total length of eternity. The Christian can take a long range view realizing that though life is not all that he desires now, yet beyond this life there lies a far better situation. To secure that blissful place he realizes he must have a constant faith that will not wilt in the face of these temporary, painful situations.

Although the Christian can see these situations are temporary, he does not ignore the needs of others. He does not just speak comforting words about the situation, he knows there is a need for positive material action. There comes a time when more than pious prayers are needed to correct a situation. Christians are to be hearers and believers, but they must also activate what they have heard and believed. This is the practical side to Christianity.

Christian living is what is seen or not seen by the world. Although those about us may not understand the doctrines and ordinances we live by, they can tell whether we are living as Christians or not. If they see us close our hearts and hands to those in need, they can figure we are not what we profess to be. If they see us in the midst of our own painful situations, curse and question God, they will believe that Christianity holds no answers for the person with troubles.

The Christian can consider Job as a model of one who met multiplied disasters yet was able to hold to his faith even in the midst of his friends' accusations. The Christian's faith does not always seem rational to those around him but a true faith will produce an assurance that will in the end overcome the difficulties. Quiet confidence in the midst of disaster will do more to impress the unbelieving than pious prayers and sanctimonious sermons.

The peace a Christian has within, even in the midst of troubles, is not understood by the world. Spiritual things are only understood by those possessing the Spirit of God. That peace can be confident and assured when all around are agonizing in their serious situations. The peace the Christian has within is from God. The Christian has trusted his soul's salvation to God's Plan. He can certainly trust his temporal and material affairs to the same God. Therefore he can have peace in all his affairs. This witness of God's active peace can be important in persuading the lost to seek the same peace. They must see that it is secured from God through faith and obedience.

Disasters happen daily. They may be large or small. They may involve an individual or multitudes of people. They may be financial, physical, civic or moral. Whatever they are, they may strike both believer and unbeliever. It is the peace within that can carry the Christian through such a disaster and even cause him to be better for it.

Are you prepared for disaster? No amount of physical, material planning can make you ready. Spiritual preparation is the most important. Are you really prepared?

SIXTY YEARS AGO

September 1, 1927

"WHERE HE LEADS I WILL FOLLOW"

J. H. Crofford

When we arrive to the age of accountability; when we become conscious of our wrong doings or sinful life, there comes a call, not audibly but consciously, for a change in life.

"I can hear my Saviour calling,
I can hear my Saviour calling,
I can hear my Saviour calling,
Take thy cross and follow, follow me."

Then when we come to a full realization of our condition, and feel the weakness and our dependence on a higher power, we decide to change our former way of living to obedience to the bidding of the master.

"Jesus, 'tis a full surrender; All I leave to follow thee;
Thou my leader and defender from this time shalt ever be.
I surrender all, I surrender all; All I have I bring to Jesus.
I surrender all."

Having made the full surrender, realizing our former leadership to be wrong, with humble contrition we resolve:

"Where He leads me, I will follow,
Where He leads me, I will follow,
Where He leads me, I will follow,
I'll go with Him with Him all the way."

Humbly, penitently having made the resolution, how many fully realize what it means to follow Him all the way?

To follow Him means going step by step. We are not full grown persons as soon as we are born, neither are we fully developed in His kingdom as soon as we start out in His service. What are some of the steps He took? His first step was to empty Himself. He put away from Himself His glory, His honor, His majesty, His beauty, His Holiness (He became sin for us) and became a man, a babe in Bethlehem's manger.

Then our first step in following His is a complete putting from us of bigotry, or everything that makes us think we are somebody. Personal honors, popularity and self righteousness must be left at

the foot of the cross and we too, must become as little babes.

Next we find Him "growing and waxing strong in spirit, filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon Him."

As babes in Christ, we must "desire the sincere milk of the Word and grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ," asking God for wisdom, "who giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not." Then "study to show thyself unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed."

After Jesus grew strong, we find Him going about doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the devil. As we wax strong, it is our privilege to carry the message of life and hope and deliverance from this oppression of the devil, and pray through faith in His name that the Father loose them.

Looking into the three short years of His ministry, how frequently He went apart to pray: "He went apart in a desert place to pray." "He went to the mountain to pray." He went to the garden to pray." "He spent all night in prayer." "He arose a long while before day and went out to pray." Of all the privileges we enjoy, there is none more precious than the privilege and duty of following Him in prayer. "Men ought always to pray and not to faint."

Then as we follow Him towards the close of His earthly ministry to Gethsemane, though we worked with and for Him, will we go no farther? If we would follow Him, we must go all the way, we must needs go through Gethsemane. Can you form a conception of the meaning of Gethsemane? Do you visualize anything different from a garden of beautiful roses and flowers with the sun shining and birds singing, when you sing: "I'll go with Him through the garden, I'll go with Him through the garden"? It was not a garden of this type, but one of great agony and suffering. In the darkness of the night the Son of God came to the hour of His betrayal. His followers, His nearest and dearest, follow Him to this spot where He experienced one of the darkest hours of His life. He came here apart from the world that He might have communion with the Father. He still went a little farther apart from His followers to agonize in prayer until "His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling to the ground." There will come a time in our lives when we too would go where not even those we love best and those who love us can come. We in a measure can taste the agonies of intercession. The burdens of the sins of all those about us, and the whole wide world wide sweep over us while we lay broken and gasping at His feet, while the Holy Spirit makes intercession for us with groanings that cannot be uttered. When He returned from His vigil He found those whom He left to watch, asleep. We also will taste the bitterness of being all alone, and in a measure are made to

realize it in the present movement. Those whom we thought were truly interested in the Kingdom of God and its extension fail us. We find those we expected to watch with us asleep at the post of duty. The promise to be faithful until death, failed when the crucial time came. We thank thee, Lord, for the privilege which is ours, but we cannot do it unless thou dost give us the strength.

The victory won in the garden means victory in the life of every believer who will strive for it.

The choirs in the churches all over our land sing:

"I'll go with Him through the judgment,
I'll go with Him through the judgment,
I'll go with Him through the judgment,
I'll go with Him, with Him all the way."

A judgment is sure to come to those who follow in His footsteps. The world will point the finger of scorn at you. They will cast out your name as evil, as they did His. The only crown you will know in this life will be a crown of thorns composed of the jeers of the world. The persecuting and judging may come from those you least expect it; from the members of your own household (church). No matter if you are called fanatic, hypocrite or crank, if you are following Him.

Then comes the crucifixion. You dare not stop at the cross if you would follow Him all the way. You must die to the world and self so completely and painfully that you will feel that you have been crucified with Him. Your hands must be nailed to the cross of renunciation of worldly "busyness", and your feet from straying where the Lord will not go. Your head must be pierced with thorns so your worldly thoughts, aspirations, ambitions and desires may give way to seeking His ways and plans.

After death follows the burial. After the crucifixion Jesus was laid in the tomb. If you will follow Him all the way, you must be buried in the baptismal waters of the world and sinful pursuits and pleasures.

But all glory to His name; the tomb could not hold Him. There is also a resurrection for His faithful followers. Jesus not only arose from the grave but He is sitting in glory at the right hand of His Majesty, pleading and interceding for us. It is now your privilege to plead with the lost and dying about you, and to intercede for the sick and suffering that they may be healed. But there remains for those who have followed Him all the way a glorious resurrection, when they will realize the eternal reward for having been faithful to the resolution "Where He leads me, I will follow," and they realize that they are "Home at last, Home at last."

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

A Vision for the Mission

God's Word sets before us a missionary vision. We must catch hold of that vision if we are to fulfill the "Great Commission" that is given to us in Matthew 28:19-20. The "Go ye..." missionary vision involves more than merely looking out upon the fields which are white unto harvest. It encompasses preaching the gospel to those in regions beyond our home and church... approaching the map of the world with an open Bible. I fear that many people look upon the need today and go forth engaging in social work, economic betterment and even medical service. And of course, these are all "good works"... they are a part of the missionary enterprise... but they do not show forth a vision for lost souls. Human efforts and aims, however exalted and worthy they might be in themselves... are not basic elements of spreading the good news of Jesus Christ and salvation through Him.

Now you don't have to have a visit from an angel or a special revelation to enter the missionary challenge and vision. This vision is the ability to see with the eyes of the mind and heart our God in all of His glory... to get a glimpse of His plan and to gain a conception of His provision for the accomplishment of His plan.

Jesus didn't tell His disciples to lift their eyes and look upon the harvest fields which were white, ready for harvesting or reaping. This vision was greater than that which could be viewed with the human eyes. A Spirit-opened heart has to see the value of the harvest and the purpose and plan of God for gathering the harvest. Missionary vision and passion does not come from viewing the fields in the understanding and fashion of man. It comes from knowing God as our Lord knew Him... knowing the sovereign God who has a great goal for the world. It is knowing the loving and compassionate God who is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." II Peter 3:9.

You will never possess the vision... you will never see the fields ready for harvest until you see God with the eyes of your heart and the sight of faith. Isaiah's account of his vision begins with the words, "I saw the Lord." After he had seen Him "high and lifted up," he could then see his part in His perfect plan. ONLY after he had seen the Lord could he see the people's need, the work to be done, his own lack of power and God's way for him. Today, as in Isaiah's time, the REAL VISION is the Spirit-given sight that beholds God with His work and His goal.

In God's wonderful grace, He has not only redeemed your soul but He has also called you to be a worker together with Him as He

carries out His purpose for bringing men into His eternal kingdom. God's plan of the ages is moving onward toward its ultimate consummation. Jesus said, "My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work." For Him, doing the Father's will included His finishing work at Calvary, but He never flinched from the task. Now, via His Holy Spirit, He is imparting His vision and calling His children to serve and to suffer with Him in doing the Father's work.

To be missionary-minded is to be Christ-minded; to be Christ-minded is to be missionary-minded and possess the missionary vision. This means Christ living in you, through you and by you. His passion for the world and His compassion for lost men and women must be yours.

Let our vision of Christ's mission go onward. Let us turn our eyes to the future and press forward to carry out the commission God has given us. Don't be content with where we have been... that is not vision but an old man's dream. God has asked nothing of us for which He will not provide the strength and provision to carry to completion. Our acceptance and possession of the call will stand after heaven and earth have passed away.

Do you have a vision for the mission?

Brother Len Wertz

OBEY AND HONOUR FATHER AND MOTHER

To receive the blessing of being raised by Christian parents is a great blessing and we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude we owe toward them. Children are commanded to obey their parents in the Lord and honor them. It gives us a promise of well being and long life on earth. We have seen many times when children did not obey, respect and honour their Christian parents as they should and often times they have been a burden and placed sadness and heart aches upon them.

Disobedience and dishonour to Christian parents is also disobedience and dishonour to our Lord's command. Under the old dispensation they were commanded to do so and Christ renewed the command. The Apostle Paul reminded us we should obey this God given command. Disobedience to Christian parents has contributed much to the falling away from the faith of the saving Gospel of Christ, the good example set by our faithful foreparents. The Apostle Paul goes as far as to say children obey your parents in all things for this is well pleasing to God.

The saving Gospel tells us long hair is given to the women for a glory. Also we are not to wear costly array and unnecessary

appendages. Many years ago my father said people that were old in this life said the wearing of the necktie is a crape that shows there is a spiritual death inside. Today many women are robbing themselves of the glory of God. We can show our appreciation for our Christian parents by obedience and honour for them.

We know it was and with some it still is now their hearts desire for their children to be faithful and true to the Lord. Parents who were much concerned about both their children's welfare, spiritual and temporal, deserve honour and praise. Children who do not obey and honour their parents have not received the blessings of God and are missing the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. We know some who have suffered hardships and a short stay on earth because of disobedience to Christian parents. Often times it appears that many do not think of and appreciate the many things their parents have done for them. God has pronounced a penalty upon those who have cursed father or mother.

We are not to be moved by every wind of doctrine. It is a sad condition that many who have experienced the blessings of the plain, simple life as taught in the saving Gospel have turned to the evil fashions of the world. The call is continued, "Come out from the evils of the world and be ye separate." The things that were evil in the days of our foreparents are evil today. Sin and the ways of evil are much worse now than they have been in the days of our foreparents. We have many who have no sympathy for the ill. Christ showed sympathy for the ill. God's Word teaches reverence for old age.

Many prophecies are being fulfilled and the signs are that we are nearing the second coming of Christ. Are we ready and prepared for this great event? The time has come when many will not endure sound doctrine but have heaped to themselves teachers having itching ears. What could be done to turn more to accept the faith once and for all delivered to the saints? This know ye also in the last days perilous times should come and some shall depart from the faith giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils speaking lies in hypocrisy having their conscience seared with a hot iron. Evil men shall wax worse and worse deceiving and being deceived.

Satan sometimes appears as an angel of light. He also goes about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. Many are overtaken by the spirit of antichrist. What is in store for the rising generation if wickedness continues in the next half century, to get worse and worse like it has been in our day. Many are being robbed and murdered daily. No one's earthly life is safe anymore because of the forces of evil. Envy, hatred and strife are abounding because the love of many is cold.

Will we stand the storms of life's pathway in this evil day. We need the help of the blessed Saviour who can make all things possible. Through His help we can press onward and forward toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Many great men of God, recorded in His Word, were determined to go onward and forward and never lay their armour down.

I said to my beloved late wife sometime ago, "The most of our friends have gone to their reward." It is necessary to keep God's commands to spend eternity with the faithful servants of God who have gone on before.

Let us never forget the first command with promise that Christ also commanded in His Saving Gospel. We who have had Christian parents laid to rest can never fully repay the debt of gratitude we owe toward them. Let us continue onward in the way of the truth and righteousness that we like the Apostle Paul can say "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." Let us not be among the foolish who are unprepared for the glorious eternal life to come.

This life is as a flower that appears for a season then vanishes away. Are we prepared for eternity? As we grow older in this life we should be aware of the fact we are nearing the time we must lay this armour of flesh down and reap our eternal reward and join with those who have gone on before. If the second coming of Christ were today would we be ready to appear at the judgment seat of Christ? That will be a happy day for those who are prepared to meet their loved ones in the glorious eternal city of God, when the heart aches will be over in this life. Will we be among those who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb?

Brother J. F. Marks
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NONCONFORMITY

Romans 12:2

After baptism, we have become a new creature in Christ Jesus. The sins of our past life are washed away. The desire of our heart should now be directed toward Christian living. A Christian will not want to please self, but will desire to please God. "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of

God." I Cor. 10:31.

We are now willing to devote our bodies in holy service to God. "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." Rom. 12:2.

"Come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you." I Cor. 6:17. Sin separates from God. We have now turned from Satan with all his pernicious ways and now seek higher and better ideals than those offered by the world.

Christians are "Known and read of all men." II Cor. 3:2. They will practice the golden rule in their lives. They will avoid the things that have even the appearance of evil. They will try to influence others for good.

Christians will be different from other people even in appearance. Modesty of dress is a scriptural teaching of the New Testament. In I Tim. 2:9-10 we read that women are to dress in modest apparel and not to wear jewelry or costly array. A Christian will not dress in a way to draw attention to her body, but will wear the gem of great price, which is the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit. She will be concerned in spending her time doing good works. I Peter 3:3-4.

Our Church has always advocated Gospel simplicity in dress and tries to maintain modest adornment by certain requirements. Sisters are not to wear shorts or slacks, or tight form-fitting and short dresses, which is so prevalent in the fashions of the world. Sisters are to wear modest dresses, long enough and wide enough so that their knees are well covered when sitting. Ten inches from the floor is a good length that will meet this requirement as specified in our polity booklet. As a weather covering the sisters are to wear the plain bonnet and hood.

The brethren are to wear the standing collar coat and the plain black hat. This distinguishes their attire from the worldly custom of wearing neckties, and so forth.

As worldly organizations have their own uniform to specify the company they are associated with or the type of work, they do, so the Christian Church has the right to have a uniform standard of dress to distinguish them from the fashions and styles of the world.

Simplicity of dress and modest attire is the most beautiful adornment, because it shows a beautiful spirit within and is in harmony with the teaching of the Scripture. Loyalty is beautiful!

Sister Maxine Surbey

AN EXAMPLE OF FAITH

In the country of Germany
In the town of Swartz'nau,
Were a band of God's believers
Who seriously searched God's law.

They thought the State's religion
Did not meet the will of God,
So they searched the Holy Bible
That the right path they may trod.

After many days and years of study
With their bended knees in prayer,
They received spiritual enlightenment
As to what they should do there.

There eight souls did make a vow
That they should band together,
To study and obey God's Word,
For to understand it better.

They learned from the Good Book
That to get freedom from sin,
It took baptism in the water,
Three times to be immersed in.

And so as the eight chose one
He had to baptize another first,
Then the one that was baptized
The others he did immerse.

The year was seventeen o eight
When this movement first begun,,
Many people joined this group,
Accepting Jesus as God's Son.

From Germany to America
Leaders of this group did come,
They preached the old time Gospel
Besides living it in their homes.

Down through the generations
These believers remained so true,
How thankful we should be to them,
For their example to me and you.

The salvation plan we have right now
May we never let it slip,
As Paul told his many captors
Play safe, stay on board the Ship.

- Brother Paul R. Myers

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

Laying On Hands

J. H. Moore

Enough is said in the New Testament about the laying on of hands, to indicate that hands were laid on all converts sooner or later, following their baptism. We read that after Paul had properly instructed and then baptized the twelve certain disciples at Ephesus, he said "laid his hands on them." (Acts 19:6) For some reason, not mentioned in the account of the circumstance, Philip, the evangelist, did not lay hands on those he baptized during his revival meeting at Samaria, but a little later, — possibly a week or such a matter, — Peter and John came up from Jerusalem and performed this service. Referring to those baptized, we read: "Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost." (Acts 8:17) In keeping with these examples, the minister, after baptizing penitent believers, should lay his hands on them, and pray over them. This we regard as a consecration service, — a ceremony in which new-born creatures are fully set apart for the Lord's service. The prayer should be a most impressive one, and ought to make a lasting impression on the soul of those receiving the blessing.

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR A SEEKER

From one of John Newton's letters.

How often have I longed to be an instrument of establishing you in the peace and hope of the Gospel! And I have but one way of attempting it: By telling you over and over of the power and grace of Jesus. You want nothing to make you happy but to have they eyes of your understanding more fixed upon the Redeemer, and more enlightened by the Holy Spirit to behold His glory.

O! He is a suitable Saviour! He has power, authority and compassion to save to the uttermost. He has given His word of promise to engage our confidence, and He is able and faithful to make good the expectations and desires He has raised in us.

Put your trust in Him; believe, as we say, through thick and thin, in defiance of all objections from within and without.

For this Abraham is recommended as a pattern to us. He overlooked all difficulties. He ventured and hoped even against hope in a case which, to appearance, was desperate because he knew that he who had promised was able to perform.

Selected by L. H. Miller

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REDEEMED

There is a song we often sing, "When All Redeemed Singers Get Home." I am wondering just what it will be like, when all the redeemed get Home. I am sure there is nothing greater than what that time will be. The songs we often sing have a lasting impression on our lives.

God knew us before we were born. He also knew we needed to be redeemed. He looked down upon mankind lost in sin. If we lose something we try to get it back or redeem it. So God is trying to redeem that which was lost. He went to the cross of Calvary to redeem us.

Can we redeem ourselves with money or good works? There is only one way we can be redeemed and that is by the cross, through His Word. We read where Jesus told Nicodemus "Ye must be born again." I don't think there is any other way. The redeemed are those who have been washed in the blood of the Lamb and made ready. If you are in bondage why not let the blood of Jesus Christ set you free?

How many of us really love the Lord? We know He loves us because He died on Calvary to redeem each and every soul who is willing to accept Him. Are we willing to let Christ take hold of our lives and make a new person out of us? Do we really express our love for Him knowing that it is only through Him we have been redeemed?

If we are redeemed, we are filled with the Holy Spirit and the fruits of our lives will show to those around us. We will be more kind, more loving and lend a hand to those in need. I wonder as we gather together at Church or at Conference and meet with those who are outside the ark of safety, do they really feel we have been redeemed? Are we a redeemed people? If they needed help, some food or a ride would we help them, or are we just concerned about ourselves? Do we love the poor ones in our Church, as Christ would have us do? Do you believe the golden rule? Many times I am made to wonder about these things. We are to help those who need help. I am sure if we do these things the Lord will richly bless us.

Do we feel we are better than other Sisters or Brethren? If we are redeemed we will not find any of these things in His Church. Where would we be today if Jesus had not offered us the way of salvation? Oh, how wonderful it is to be redeemed from the hands of the enemy.

So many today think there is a way out. Not long ago an aged man came to my home and said, "Why do you waste your time going to Church?"

I said "Because I love the Lord and want a home hereafter."

"You know when you die that is the end, just like pets when they die."

I said, "You are wrong, don't you have a Bible so you are able to see that there is a place for the righteous and a place for the ungodly."

"I don't need a minister, not now nor when I die. I will be cremated at once and no funeral and that is the end."

I said, "I am so sorry for you because there is going to be a judgment day when you will pay dearly for not following Christ."

He said, "There is no such person."

Just three months to the day he passed away and nobody would have known it if they had not seen the undertaker take him. This was a sad thing, but He is not the only one that believes that way. It is sad that these people can't be helped. I know they do not enjoy this life like a Christian does. I pray that those who are out in the world of sin can be rescued before it is too late.

Sister E. M. Alltus

NEWS ITEMS

RIDGE, WEST VIRGINIA

The Ridge Congregation will hold a Revival Meeting, September 14 through 20. The Lord willing Elder Harley Flory of Defiance, Ohio will be the evangelist. A Lovefeast service will be held on Saturday, September 19. A hearty invitation is given to all who can attend.

Elder Eugene Kauffman

McCLAVE, COLORADO

Lord willing, the McClave Congregation is planning a Revival meeting, with Bro. Len Wertz of Quinter, Kansas as our evangelist. The meetings will begin September 20, with the Lovefeast service September 26.

Please come and be with us if you can.

Sister Rhonda Snyder, Cor.

PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Plevna Church plans a two week Revival beginning October 4 through October 18. Bro. Hayes Reed is our evangelist. Services nightly with our Lovefeast October 17. Communion will begin at 7 p.m.

We invite all to these services.

Sister Verda Lorenz, Cor.

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXV

SEPTEMBER 15, 1987

NO. 18

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

"YOU MAY THINK!"

You may think "THINGS" are important

In this world we're living in...

But they really are worth NOTHING!

Often they cause strife and sin.

(That's what Satan wants.)

If you want something IMPORTANT

Then why not choose the Bible?

Read it from cover to cover,

Then you won't be found idle.

(That's what God wants.)

Every thing you have on this earth

Has been loaned to you from God,

And some day you will leave it here

When you're laid beneath the sod.

(Thank God for loans.)

Don't put your trust on "THINGS ON EARTH,"

Let your mind soar to the skies...

Beyond the clouds of snowy white

Where mansions in glory rise.

(Thank God for Christ.)

Oh, let your Lord mean more to you

Than all the riches around...

Always, He will take care of you

When in His ways you abound.

(Think on these things.)

- Sister Irene Stout

BIRTHDAYS

Everybody has a birthday. Some do not wish to acknowledge these yearly events but their druthers do not change the fact. Others, especially the children, look forward to the coming of birthdays and the accompanying presents and parties.

Birthdays mark the yearly accumulation of age. From the date of our entrance into this world, we calculate our time of stay until now. How many birthdays we will celebrate is beyond our knowledge. Some are plucked from this world before they have celebrated very many birthdays; others will see many birthdays before they are called from this life.

Our birth is a miracle, itself, as is the continuation of life. If reproduction were left to the inventive mind of men, undoubtedly some far inferior method would have been devised, but God devised our present means so as to involve both parents and to seal their love with conception and the eventual birth of another person requiring their love and care. That life is precious because of God's hand in its conception and deliverance.

Each birthday, as it marks a yearly increase in age, should also denote a growth in physical and mental abilities. We expect as a child grows older that he will be able to do more things with greater dexterity. We also expect a growth in mental abilities as well. When a person has passed enough birthdays to be considered an adult, we also expect an ability to control his behavior and to have increased patience. Unfortunately the number of birthdays a person has had, has little relationship to his real maturity. Some who are younger in years are more mature than others who are much older. Years are not an accurate measure of maturity.

THE BIBLE MONITOR**SEPTEMBER 15, 1987**

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Not only do Christians have a physical birthday but also a Spiritual birthday. There was a day sometime in the past, whether long ago or very recent, when choice was made to become a child of God. Whether the Christian had the advantage of sitting under the sound of true gospel preaching all of his life or he had by his own volition recently begun to hear the Gospel story, still by the working of the Spirit of God that person was brought to the place where he was willing to accept the fact that he could not save himself, no matter what wonderful deeds he might do. In realizing his helplessness, he could then find the way God had provided for the forgiveness of his sins and establishment as a child of God. There had to be an exercise of faith, believing that God would do as He promised. There had to be an acceptance of the work Jesus did on Calvary in dying for the sins of all mankind. For that death to have meaning it must be accepted on an individual basis. There was a need of repentance, not only a sorrow for sins committed in the past but also a willingness to not sin in the future. Faith and repentance were an individual responsibility, but to bring about the new birth, there was the need for the involvement of the whole body of Christ. Just as the human birth involves both parents so the Spiritual birth involves the believing, repentant individual and the Church. Trine immersion for the remission of sins must be administered through the Church's ministerial representatives. With administration of baptism the promise of the Spirit's coming can be enjoyed and Spiritual life is present. The breath of life must be present when a baby is born, the Spirit must be present to have a Spiritual birth.

This is a wonderful birthday. But that is what it is — a birthday. There must be continual Spiritual growth and advancing maturity. Just as years of natural life do not guarantee maturity, so years of Spiritual activity do not necessarily mean Spiritual maturity either. There must be a consistent growth and a daily dependance upon the Spiritual food of the Bible, with study, prayer and service. There must be a disciplined other-centered life that is an imitation of the life of Christ. There must be the realization that there is never an end to that growing. There is no place of stopping. There must be a continual growth or all may yet be lost.

Physical birthdays may or may not be enjoyable — it all depends upon how we look at them. If we have had a Spiritual birthday we can more easily accept the piling up of years that mean inevitably we are closer to the end of life than we were before.

More important than our physical birthday is our Spiritual birthday. Not only is the birth important but the continuing of our Spiritual maturing. In this case we should not ask, "How old are you?" but rather, "How mature are you?"

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Twentieth-Century Idolatry"

Idolatry has been a problem since the fall of man in the Garden of Eden. The Greek and Roman cultures were full of it. Paul was "greatly distressed" in Athens when he saw the city full of idols. (Acts 17:16) In Ephesus he again saw many of these man-made gods.

The message of Jesus Christ penetrated this idolatrous environment and we find Christians, as those at Thessalonica, testifying that they "turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God." This would indicate that in the early church a converted person made clear-cut and dramatic choices for Christ and away from the idols of their age. SERVING THE LIVING GOD AND BOWING DOWN TO DEAD IDOLS ARE INCOMPATIBLE IN EVERY WAY... and this would bring us to the twentieth-century Christian.

Today, it seems so difficult for many people to identify with the idolatry of the Biblical cultures. We don't often think about bowing down to idols made of wood or stone as the pagan peoples did. Yet, much of the world's population still engage in flagrant idolatry.

When I was in Africa, I routinely saw shrines filled with images and homes where idols were a part of their everyday life. These items were to provide them with peace, protection and sometimes even prosperity. I also viewed this in Hawaii and among the Pueblo's of the Southwest. Even in Mexico the idolatry was dramatic. In the great churches there you see dramatic statuary and images which have been a prominent part of their Catholic worship for hundreds of years. And though these people would deny that they were worshiping and bowing down to these idols, they seemed to esteem them very much like the golden calf was esteemed as the center of worship at the foot of Mt. Sinai. It becomes a strange sort of combination of old idolatrous practice and modern Christian worship practice. Again, we say that we would never worship in that way. But what about those of us who are guilty of a more subtle form of idol worship... idolatry 1980's style?

Today, rather than worshiping images of people... we seem more likely to worship people. The most prevalent examples here are those who are highly esteemed in the entertainment field... and that includes sports! Some of us remember when Elvis Presley died. There was an incredible outburst of "people worship" which broke out as people demonstrated their affection, love, and actual worship of this evil man. This individual, who probably did more than any other person to corrupt the morals of young people, died

of a drug overdose... and became a modern "god."

To "glorify people" is a great American habit. It would seem that the more sordid their life-style, the more attention they get from the press. Musicians today are emulated on every hand. People copy their hair styles, clothing styles... and ultimately their life styles. They adopt their "religion" as they preach it via the airwaves. They are idols!

Even some religious leaders are worshiped today. This is particularly true in some Evangelical movements and it is true in all of the cults. Human (istic) gods are signs of the times.

Jesus clearly teaches us that we can not serve two masters. Our devotion can only be to one. (Matt. 6:24) Yet, materialistic gods continue to take their places in our lives. I am amazed... and appalled... that some of the Christian young people I know... know about as much about athletic stars as they do about Bible characters. Athletes have become some of the highest paid men in the world. They have become idols... and are even termed that unashamedly in some publications today.

Idolatry and immorality have always been closely aligned. There is no question that many Americans worship at the shrine of sex. This is the reason they bow down to the "sex-symbols"... both men and women... enjoying them in utter flagrant immorality. People are preoccupied with sensuality... and this is idolatry. God hates immorality and I believe we are seeing a form of His judgment against it in the AIDS disease today. Paul teaches that no idolater has an inheritance in the kingdom of God. (Eph. 5:5) See the ultimate end of all idolatry here?

Are you guilty? You must be on the guard against this evil today. You must first make the choice of Joshua to "serve the Lord." (Josh. 24:14-15) Secondly, you must pray fervently that God will reveal to you when you are straying out into the idolatrous system of our age. Renew your commitment day by day and serve Christ with enthusiasm.

Finally, examine and evaluate your life-style in the light of God's eternal Word. Ask yourself... is there anything in your life that is more important than Christ and His will for your life? Have you turned your personal needs over to Him? Have you turned your status in life over to Him? Have you turned your material possessions over to Him? Have you turned your recreational activities over to Him? Your leisure time, your hobbies, your house, your car... are they God's? If you can't say with ease that they are all His... they may well be on the way to becoming your god(s). Commit everything to God now. Ask Him for forgiveness in areas where twentieth-century idols have taken His rightful place as number one in your life.

Brother Len Wertz

IS THE CHURCH LOSING ITS IDENTITY?

The Church has always stood for Gospel plainness. Direct teachings such as I Timothy 2:9-10, I Peter 3:3-5, and teachings on pride, I John 2:16, Mark 7:2 have led Church fathers to instigate guidelines for us to follow.

The brethren's coat, the recommendations for parting the hair, the guidelines for sisters dresses, and the restrictions on jewelry are all ways the Church is trying to help us to lead Godly lives in this world that is filled with pride.

Why is it that we seem to want to follow the world in the matter of dress? Do we feel that the world is a better teacher than the Church? Why do hemlines go up and down with the fashions the world wears? Why do brethren want to wear the brightly colored pants the world wears? Do we want to be identified with the world? We all know that God has prepared a place for the world and He has told us how terrible it will be. Why then do we want to do as the world does?

God says there are seven things that He hates and one of them is pride. Is pride what causes us to dress as the world does? Is it pride that makes us ashamed to be seen in our church clothes? Some have one set of clothes for Sunday and other clothes for the rest of the week. Is this consistent with Bible teaching? James 1:8 says, "A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways."

Can the people who see us when we are out and about identify us as belonging to a plain church? Or do they identify us with the world? Do the people who see us on the beach know we are a separate people?

When our children accept the Lord do we encourage them to be as plain as the Church asks or do we dress them in a manner becoming to the world? Do we encourage them to have large coverings or do we want them smaller? We are going to be responsible for the Church of the future and these children are going to be that Church.

I have a book that lists all the plain churches and also lists all the churches that USED to be plain. The Dunkard Brethren Church was on the plain list. If an outside observer were to view us would we still be on the plain list? I wonder how long we will be there?

Dress is not the important thing in our lives, but it IS important because the Bible teaches it. If our heart is right with God it will be evident on the outside as a light to the world that we follow the risen Savior.

Sister Jolene Andrews

TRAINING OUR CHILDREN

We are to train up a child the way he should go then when he is old he will not depart from it. Prov. 22:6. It is hard today to raise a family. It is not like it was when we were children. There is much going on in school and in the community. Parents spend money to give their children good educations so they can get good jobs and prepare themselves for the future.

They take them to Church and try to show them what it is to have a good Christian home and help them when they are old enough to see what a difference it makes when Christ rules their lives. I was always in a Christian home. I cannot imagine what a home would be like without Christ. But now people don't seem to care about their soul's salvation. If children would be able to see this there would not be so many in trouble. They must be taught early in life the difference between right and wrong. So often today as our children enter high school so many of their associates don't know the Lord and there is so much trouble. Often a good boy is led astray.

One day a boy was walking with his father. He wanted to go back to the car to get something. The father told his son to be careful for by the car was a deserted cabin and by it there was a well. When the boy returned he told his father how he kept away from the well by following in his tracks. Parents what kind of tracks are you leaving for your children to follow?

If Christ is the unseen guest in our homes, there will be love and happiness. We all know love is very important in any home. Even when there is a storm we know we have the love of God with us. Is our home better because we are a part of it? It is very important in every home that we teach our dear ones about Christ. We as parents must be deeply rooted in the faith, then as storms come we will be able to stand. Let us, as parents, work and strive, day by day, regardless of the cost, to win them for Christ. Can our children feel that Christ is in the home and it seems brighter for His love?

A story is told of a boy whose parents were not christians. They made him steal and do all kinds of wrong things to help support them. Finally, one day he could not stand it any longer so he left home. He did not know what to do so he traveled on and on for several hundred miles. He was tired and hungry. He noticed a house, so he went in and they seemed glad to have him. At once he noticed it was not like his home. The man and woman seemed so different. Soon he found the answer. It was a Christian home. They read the Bible every day and they knelt to pray. He seemed to fit well here and they seemed to want him. He always went to

church and loved every minute of it. Soon he felt he needed the Christ they followed. He accepted Christ and started to live a good life. They adopted him and were so happy together. Before long he was put into the ministry and started carrying the message of Salvation to a dying world.

Here is an example of what a Christian home can do. When Christ brightens our home there is no room for darkness. May we as parents hold the great light that shines in our lives before our children, so they can see what it means to have Christ in our lives. Then when they have a home, it will also shine there and it will be a blessing to all who enter.

Sister E. M. Alltus

SIXTY YEARS AGO

September 15, 1927

THE CHURCH EFFECTIVE

D. W. Hostetler

We think of the church as an institution essential for the development of Christian training and culture.

Christian culture is the application of labor or means in rendering productive or useful, resulting in spiritual improvement, development, and enlightenment. This is the thing that is needed in these days. We need more enlightenment of God's truth, His great love, His plan of salvation, and the great mission of His church in the world. We need a bigger vision of life and the purpose of our being in the world.

Let us think of the church as a living body. The life of the church is no higher than the lives of the members constituting the church; hence, it behooves each one of us to do our very best to live such lives as will raise the standard of church life.

In John 5:21 it is said that as the Father raiseth the dead and quickeneth them, so the Son quickeneth whom He will; that is, He incites life. However, this is conditional on our accepting the conditions of pardon.

I John 4:10 says, Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Verse 9 says, God loved us so that he sent his Son that we might live through Him. The Psalmist says, the law of the Lord (in other words, the doctrine of the Lord) is perfect converting the soul. The command to the Church is to preach the gospel to every creature. Peter said, Repent and be baptized for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Again he says, Repent and be converted that your sins may be blotted out. From these texts

and others we draw the conclusion that teaching is a condition to faith, that faith is a condition to repentance, that repentance is a condition to baptism, that baptism is a condition to the remission of sins, and that the remission of sins is a condition to the gift of the Holy Ghost. This is the law that regulates the new birth.

Paul says the church is the pillar and ground of the truth. She is instructed with the oracles of God. It is clear that she has the message of life and it is her work to bring this message of life to sinners.

Another necessity for the regulation of the life of the church is that she must renew her life; Paul tells us that the outward man perishes but the inward man is renewed day by day, that is, the outward man wears away in serving Him, but in so doing, the inward man is renewed. Make a personal application of this test and you will renew the spiritual life of the church. Paul in Ephesians 4:22-23 says we should put off the old man which is corrupt according to deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of our mind. Paul further tells us to be transformed by the renewing of the mind. This renewal means to renovate, to transform, to change from natural enmity to the love and law of God, to implant holy affections in the heart. Paul in Colossians tells us that the new man is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him. We are to become like Him in desire, in purpose, in affection, and in character.

To be effective, the church must grow from within. She must be founded on gospel principle and plan her own work by the direction of the Holy Spirit in harmony with the law of God, and not go out into the world to get worldly things and worldly methods and expect to grow spiritual. For worldliness always drives out spirituality. I read recently a news article in which the editor praised a college professor for having the courage of his convictions. The newspaper quotes the professor as saying that anyone who does not enjoy a good movie is sick and that it is foolishness to try to keep our young people from attending movies and other things our young people are doing. I am made to think of a motto I once saw on the wall of a blacksmith shop: "Do nothing that you would not like to be doing when Jesus comes; say nothing you would not like to be saying when Jesus comes; go no place where you would not like to be found when Jesus comes." Now I wonder if the professor would like to be at a movie when Jesus comes.

Christianity and worldliness will not mix and ye can not serve God and mammon. In the Christian Herald for May 7, 1927 on page 394, there is an article called, "Where is the Gain?" It tells of a young pastor's making a trial of opening the parish house to

dancing. After one year the pastor voted the experiment a failure. It added, he said, no additional attendance to prayer meeting or church service. The pastor declared that the dance that most people wanted is the kind that provokes the passions that in the long run destroy spiritual life. He declares that he is ready to put on a program that would make the church a thing distinct from the world instead of one which conforms to the world.

Brethren, may God help us that the church of our choice may avoid worldliness and these social evils, for her activities must be such that enriches her qualities; then she is enlarging her life, expands, reaches out.

WHO FLEW THE KITE?

I Corinthians 12

"I did," said the wind! "I did," said the paper! "I did," said the string! "I did," said the boy! But in reality they all flew the kite! If the wind had lulled, if the paper had torn, if the sticks had broken, if the tail had caught in the tree, or the boy had fallen, then the kite would have come down! Each had a part to play.

In the Christian walk, each of us has a part to play also. God has given each of His children a job to do. Some jobs are simple, some more demanding, but all are necessary. There is no reason to concern ourselves with whose job is most important. God asks us to do certain things according to our ability, not according to social status or because we'd like to do something important. He is concerned with the whole task, but each of us has just a part to complete.

Our goal in the work we do for the Lord should be to do our part in a way that blends in with the efforts of others. We should desire to fulfill our roles so our lives are an honor to God. When we have the right goals and desires, we will be too busy working to worry about how important our job is. Our greatest satisfaction will come in knowing we've done as God has directed us.

We are encouraged when we know we've done our job well and that God is pleased. We also appreciate the encouragement of those about us, and we in turn should encourage and rejoice with others in their work. Sometimes when others succeed and we fail, jealousy will rear up its ugly head, but we must turn away from such. We need instead to continue on in faith, trusting God to help us do His will.

"For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ." I Cor. 12:12. As we observe the human body and how its various parts complement each other, we readily see that all of it is

necessary. A leg doesn't take off by itself and leave the foot and upper body behind. Neither does a hand function separately from the arm. The whole body works together, and so should we in Christ. We can't function effectively alone.

"And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you." I Cor. 12:21. We can get along without certain parts of our bodies, but missing or not, all parts are still important. Each person in the body of Christ is also important and we can't look at each other and say, "I don't need you" or "God doesn't need you." We need each other and we need to work together as a unit.

Whether it is a family, a Church, a farm or other business, it takes the efforts of all concerned to make it a fully-working unit. If anyone refuses to do his or her part, it hinders the end result in one way or another. A team of horses has learned to work together, to pull the load as one. We need to function as a team also, and not be pulling in opposite directions.

In the Christian walk, we first must team up with Christ. We must learn to work with Him, not pull away from Him. As we learn to work with Jesus, we will be better able to work with the people around us. Especially we'll be able to work in Christian service, to fit in, to help "fly the kite", rather than drag it down. This teamwork is needed to make the body of Christ a working unit.

Besides the teamwork, our oneness in Christ serves another purpose. When we suffer, we need someone to care (verse 26). We need someone close enough to us in the Lord to care when we hurt, to help us in times of distress. We need someone to hold on to us in prayer when our strength is gone and we can't hold on alone. Christians do need each other, and it is important for us to have compassion for each other.

There are different gifts and ways of doing things, but we serve just one God. These gifts are given out as He sees best. Whatever your role, wherever you live, consider yourself a part of the whole body. God has a job designed just for you. He has given the rest of the work to other believers, so all things are completed. God knows who really flies the kite, and our concern needs only to be to do His will without delay.. The results are in His hands.

Sister Eileen Broadwater

1987 GENERAL CONFERENCE SERMON NOTES

Continued from August 15, 1987 Issue

SUNDAY P.M.

Elder Hayes Reed (California) opened. Matthew 9:32-38. Christian progress depends on vision and prayer. Jesus came and

died for you and me. What will we do when we get a vision? We must put that vision in prayer and help others learn about Christ, our Savior.

Elder Dale Jamison (Kansas). Ephesians 4:11-16. God has promised us He will never leave us nor forsake us. We must make a basic decision about religion when we grow up. We must learn our Bibles well and take our stand for God. We must bridle our tongues. The Bible says we must not let the sun go down upon our wrath. We must associate with that perfect person, Christ. Outside of the Church of Jesus Christ we cannot be saved. Satan is deceiving people more all the time. The Holy Word says repent and be baptized and ye shall be saved.

Elder David Skiles (New Mexico). Luke 22:54-62. Cold Hands And A Cold Heart. What are the problems creeping into Christianity? If there is coldness in our heart, there cannot be any love in our heart. Apathy can creep into our lives in many ways. We might think we are the salt of the earth, but we may still be in the shaker. If we are going to be the salt of the earth we may be an offense to some people. Apathy can be described as Spiritual coldness. Is your life living up to the Word of God? We must be doers of the Word and live according to the Scriptures. We need to be more like Peter when his heart grew cold toward Christ, he repented for his sin. If our heart becomes cold towards Christ, are we willing to repent and turn and follow Christ. This is a humanistic nation. People think they can forget God and take care of their own life. The love of Christ must constrain us. We are ambassadors of Christ.

Elder Charles Leatherman (Ohio) closed. We have duties and responsibilities in life. Jesus Christ is that solid rock we must build on.

SUNDAY EVENING

Elder Fred Pifer (Iowa) opened. Acts 4:13-31. Let us be a consecrated Christian.

Elder Edward Johnson (Ohio). Ephesians 2:10. Workmanship. We are all interested in workmanship. We want the best workmanship of something if we purchase something. What does God have to show for what He has done for us? God repented that He ever made man. Man thinks he doesn't need God and he is without God. God burned Sodom because of wickedness. What does God think about the sins of today? God sent Jesus to bring salvation to save the world. We have an example of Christ how we ought to live. Fornication in the homes spoils the workmanship with God. We must keep in mind that we want to be Christians. We are supposed to be the workmanship of God. Jesus Christ came to save sinners. We need the Holy Spirit. Take your Bible and study it. God's Word

will do something for the Spirit.

SERMON TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE

Bro. Len Wertz (Kansas). Matthew 5:1-9, Revelation 3:14-22. Cold Fish From the Refrigerator Christianity. We are living in a compromising society. We are losing the value of God's Holy Word. Jesus wants us to be a body of believers. Satan is busy trying to tear down the Church. What are we doing to save the Church? There is going to be an Antichrist at the end of time. Spiritual coldness can take our lives quicker than any other disease. We need stability in our lives. Do we have the compassion to be obedient to God. We are living in a world of selfishness. Young people you must put away all sinful things of the world and follow the teaching of Jesus. Young people stay with the Bible believing Church. Don't let yourself get blown away by Satan. The Church is the body of Christ. Our God is alive. He is not dead. He is all powerful. God is going to judge sin. You must be separate people for Jesus. Be a Warrior of Jesus Christ and follow His teachings. Go all the way with Christ and don't be lukewarm. You need a confession concerning the things of life and a daily walk with Christ. We need to stand up for Jesus. You've got to love Christ because He first loved you. We've got to follow Jesus unto the end if we want to gain victory.

Elder Rudy Cover (California) closed. Accepting Jesus is the only way of life. There is nothing greater than eternal life. You young people have the choice of serving a living God.

MONDAY A.M.

Bro. Milton Cook (California) opened. I John 5:1-12. We want to accomplish something that might be our goal. Our spiritual goal should be living a righteous life. We want to be able to gain eternal life as our reward. He that hath the Son of God hath life. It's through Christ we can gain victory.

Bible Study - Adults - Nonresistance - Romans 12:14-21.

Children - Leaving Egypt - Exodus 4.

Bro. Ronald Marks (Pennsylvania). Giving. Matthew 10:8. Small gifts are much more meaningful some times. Gifts should be given in simplicity. God gave us many gifts to be stewards of them. When do we give? We should be willing to give to those who ask us. How shall we give? We should not give grudgingly. God loves a cheerful giver. We must be willing to give as God would give. God's great gift to us was His Son. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that we might live.

Bro. Michael Wray (California) closed. We really are not inclined to give away what is given to us. Giving is very important. The Bible teaches why we give and when we give. Giving is an

expression of God. We must be inspired from God to get the blessing.

MONDAY P.M.

Bro. Henry Walker (California) opened. Isaiah 40:29-31. God can look into our hearts and see every thing we do. He has that all seeing eye. We can't hide anything from God.

Bro. James Meyers (Iowa). Hebrews 12:1-3. Endurance. One thing to cause us to grow weary is lack of surrender. If we fail to count that cost we will grow weary. Lay aside sin or we will grow weary. Fear can cause us to lose our endurance and grow weary. Christ is our example in all walks of life. We need to look to Jesus as we face life's battles. Without Him we can do nothing. We must consider what Christ endured for you and me. When Christ went to that garden His sweat came as big drops of blood. Christ endured that severe scourging and beating for you and me. Later Christ was taken and nailed on that cross for our sins. He wanted to fulfill the will of His Father. Jesus said on the cross. "It is finished." Are we a good soldier for Christ? Will we fail to endure? We must labor for the Lord.

Bro. Michael Wray (California). II Corinthians 1:1-11. God will chasten us. God has a purpose in each of our lives. We can endure many things in life if we can see God's purpose in us. God knows when we have troubles. He can comfort us in all our tribulation. Can we fully submit ourselves unto God? We must not trust in ourselves. We must put our trust in God.

Bro. Len Wertz (Kansas) closed. We should serve God faithfully. We must endure and be a soldier of the cross. To endure God's way is to keep all the commandments.

To be continued
Sister Alice Heisey

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

SINS FORGIVEN

J. H. Moore

Speaking as he was directed by the Holy Ghost, Peter, on the Day of Pentecost, told the earnest believers to "repent, and be baptized... in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins." Acts 2:38. From this we learn that the remission of sins should follow the sacred rite of baptism. Ananias, the faithful minister of the Word, who by God was sent to assist Paul in entering the church, told him to "arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." Acts 22:16. This was as

much as to say: "Arise, and be baptized for the remission of your sins." In the time of the apostles it seems to have been well understood that the remission of sins followed baptism. Those who believed on Christ as their Savior, made the good confession, repented of their wrongdoings, and were baptized, felt assured that their sins had been pardoned, — that they had been saved from their sins; were in Christ, having been baptized into him, and were therefore in a saved state.

The one who has sufficient faith in the Master to do what he has commanded, fully realizes that, having been justified by faith, he has peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Rom. 5:1) With him it is not a matter of conjecture, for he knows that he has passed from death unto life. (John 5:24) He knows the truth, — knows it, to believe and obey, — and the truth has made him free. He is no longer under bondage to sin, but is a free man in Christ Jesus, for when Jesus, through his atoning blood, has made one free, he is free indeed. (John 8:36).

NEWS ITEMS

GOSHEN, INDIANA

The Lord willing, the Goshen Congregation will have Revival meetings from October 23 through November 1 with Brother Allen Eberly speaking. Lovefeast services on Saturday, October 31. Please remember these meetings in prayer and join us in worship.

Sister Sharon Swihart, Cor.

PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

Our hearts are full of praise to God for His Word, and His messengers. Bro. Gordon Jamison brought us several nights of messages and we feel truly revived in spirit. Matt Wray accepted the Lord and was baptized.

Since then, we received Phil and Pam Franklin into membership on previous baptism. May we lift up the Lord together.

Sister Edith Moss, Cor.

WEST FULTON, OHIO

The West Fulton Congregation is looking forward to a ten day revival October 2 through 11 with Elder Dale Jamison from Quinter, Kansas. Harvest Meeting will be October 11.

We invite you to come and worship with us.

Sister Dianne Heisey, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR OCTOBER 1987

October 4 - Changed to the Image of Christ - II Cor. 3:1-18.

1. What is the difference between the Old Law and the Salvation in Christ?
2. What did the Law do for man? and what does Christ do for them that believe?

October. 11 - Christ the Image of God - II Cor. 4:1-18.

1. If the image of Christ be glorious how may we behold that glory?
2. If we have been conformed to His image will the world see it in us?

October 18 - Ambassadors For Christ - II Cor. 5:1-21.

1. What is an ambassador and can we become ambassadors for Christ?
2. Who calls us to be ambassadors and to whom are we sent?

October 25 - Be Ye Separate - II Cor. 6:1-18.

1. What are we to be separated from?
2. What causes man to want to be conformed to this world?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR OCTOBER 1987

October 4 - What Shall I Do With Christ - Matt. 27:20-31.

1. Would we have liked to have been in Pilate's shoes at Jesus' trial?
2. Can any one avoid making this decision in life?

October 11 - Persistence - Mark 2:1-12.

1. What effort was required to get the man with palsy to Jesus?
2. Is there something in our life that keeps us away from Christ?

October 18 - Exchanging - Mark 8:34-38, Phil. 3:8-14.

1. What did Moses leave in exchange to follow the call of God?
2. What blessings are in store for those who exchange this life for Christ?

October 25 - A Mill Stone - Mark 9:41-50.

1. Jesus uses a mill stone to teach us what serious offences are.
2. Read I Cor. 8 and see how serious offences are.

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXV

OCTOBER 1, 1987

NO. 19

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

TODAY BELONGS TO JESUS

Today belongs to Jesus, With all that I can do...
To turn an evil world from sin,
And rebel human hearts to win:
Today belongs to Jesus With all that I can do.

Today belongs to Jesus, A blessed, busy day,
Of telling to a fallen race
The story of redeeming grace,
The saving grace of Jesus That purges sin away.

Today belongs to Jesus, To use in saving men,
To lead them out of shadows dim
And point them tenderly to Him,
And to the cross of Jesus, Where hope is born again.

Today belongs to Jesus, A happy day for me;
A day of sitting at His feet,
Of love and prayer, and labor sweet,
A day of serving Jesus Is full of joy for me.

- W. C. Martin

SIXTY-FIVE

"As an apology, we have none, but our convictions are that prevailing conditions not only warrant but actually demand that a medium be instituted through which the present worldward tendency of the church may be counteracted, and evils now prevailing may be exposed and corrected, and if possible removed.

Our policy is and our aim shall be, to uphold truth and righteousness, and to oppose error, wrong and evil and to use our best efforts at reform by 'earnestly contending for the faith once for all delivered to the saints' as revealed in the Holy Scriptures and maintained and held for over 250 years in our beloved Brotherhood."

The preceding paragraphs were written by Elder B. E. Kessler in the first issue of the Bible Monitor in October, 1922. This present issue marks sixty-five years of "contending for the faith."

Various writing styles have appeared. Various educational levels have been revealed. Different emphasis has been given at different times. Through these varied original and selected articles the Bible Monitor has illuminated the Word of God and magnified the Lord. It has played a part in calling people to a Spiritual, Bible-oriented lifestyle.

Sixty-five years is a long time for a cause to continue. Most causes last only a few years, often passing away with those who were their masterminds. The cause of Christ does not have a time limit and is not limited to the efforts of one man or a small group of men. The Bible Monitor's part in that great cause likewise continues today.

At least in the United States people look forward to retiring at

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sixty-five years of age. Whether wise or not, it has become a goal of many to live on their pensions. This dropping out of the workforce brings them to a time of leisure that frequently fails to bring the anticipated happiness. While age and decreasing strength may limit some activities, there is no reason for a total cessation of labor.

As with many of men's humanitarian programs there have been problems. It has encouraged many to retire from activity when their experience would be useful. It has created a feeling of uselessness within the senior citizen, which may lead not only to psychological but to physical problems as well.

Whatever their age there are many in the Church, though active at one time, who have retired. They have little interest in the Church or its work. Some who have grown older have suffered lessened mental and physical abilities and must retire from their previous activity. But there are many, whether old or young, who have no physical or mental disabilities, yet they do not actively participate. They let others do what they could do. This retirement can be very dangerous. It is dangerous for the church because there never seems to be enough laborers to go forth into the harvest, even at the best. When some retire from their responsibilities, there is left even fewer to do the needed work. This is dangerous for the retiree himself. He is not being steadfast. The race of life will not be won by a flurry of activity at the beginning. It is a persistent perseverance that is needed if the Christian's goal is to be obtained.

There can be no retirement from the duties and responsibilities of day to day Christian living. As long as the body and mind are capable of effort and thought there is a work to be done. Some of the activities of the Christian life are not as strenuous as others. Those, who can not go out to serve in the more public and arduous fields of service, still can serve through a prayer ministry or through encouragement and counsel they may further the work by other's hands. Their efforts may be small but they can be blessed if there is a willingness to serve even when great efforts are not possible.

The Bible Monitor is sixty-five years but it is not retiring. It still has work to do. As long as it is supported by contributions, subscriptions, articles and prayers it will continue its work.

The task before it remains much the same as it was sixty-five years ago. There is still evil and wrong in the world surrounding us. There is still error within Christendom. Many professing Christians have been allured to follow in pathways of compromise. There is a decided disinterest in Biblical doctrines, in plain modest attire and in Christian lives shaped by Bible teachings. These conditions all

demand that the Bible Monitor continue to illuminate the Word of God and magnify the Lord.

Are you prepared to continue to labor for your Lord in whatever way you can?

“SAITH THE LORD”

I feel prompted by our Lord to write these thoughts on paper after hearing three sermons on the following subjects:

II Cor. 6:17, “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, SAITH THE LORD, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.” Jer. 6:16-17, “Thus SAITH THE LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls... Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the wound of the trumpet...”

Both of these say, “SAITH THE LORD.” Doesn’t this mean the same as another commandment? There are so many more commandments in the Bible than the original “ten” in the Old Testament. We also have in I John 2:15-17, “Love not the world, neither the THINGS that are in the world. ... the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”

Let us ask, and depend on the Lord to give us a humble spirit, and to help us overcome satan and all his cunning ways. We can’t do it alone. We must say “No, get behind me Satan,” when we are tempted to have the latest styles and models of “things” that are on the market today. Unnecessary “things.”

How can we be like the world and show we are a “called out, peculiar people”? How can we be a different person than we were before we believed Christ’s Word, repented of our sins and were baptized?

The “old” man was washed away in the stream and the “new” man was put on. Eph. 4:22-24, “That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”

Our conscience, through the leading of the Holy Spirit can tell us what we should NOT DO anymore when we listen closely to it and yield our “wants and ways” to the Lord. Then we will grow.

There are so many worldly allurements to lead our minds away from meditating on — What is the Lord trying to tell me to do, during or after a church service or at other times? Can I walk

closer? Can I dress plainer? How can a "sheep" or "lamb" of God wear the clothing of a "goat" of Satan? Can others tell by looking at you or me, that we are professing Christians when they see us in public? Is our light shining bright for Christ?

If your answer, or my answer, to one of those last two questions is "No", then perhaps it is time to put on "sheep's or lamb's" clothing and come out from among the world, search for those "old paths" and walk in them. It is best NOT to take any "chances" with the Lord. His Word is ALWAYS the same.

If there is doubt, then let us study His Word more. We can't walk too close to Him. Where our treasure is, there will our heart be also. Matt. 6:21, Luke 12:34.

We need to keep God's power-line to heaven open by praying often. Be of a prayerful mind. Meditate on His Word, talk to Him ANYTIME! He's there to hear you and me. He knows our thoughts and desires, but wants us to ask. He DOES answer prayer. Perhaps not right now or perhaps in a way we never expected, never doubt Him but trust Him for what is best for each of us.

Not one thing in this world is as important as the salvation of each soul. We were made to serve God, let us show Him we appreciate the atoning blood of Christ for our sins by walking closer to Him, obeying His commandments and precepts that were left here in His Holy Word for us to do.

This is written with a deep moving love and concern for each soul who has a desire to live in a heavenly home. Life is short, life is serious. Satan wants us. He knows our weak points, he will "push", "pull" and try to "persuade" us that wrong is right. ANYTHING to get ANYONE to follow him.

God wants each of us too, but He doesn't "push", "pull" or try to "persuade" us. He speaks softly to us through our conscience as He patiently stands at our "heart's door" and knocks with His nail-scarred hand. "Come unto Me," He whispers.

Humbly written, not to criticize, find fault or offend anyone at all, but with love to make us more alert and ready for the Lord's coming for His saints.

Sister Irene Stout
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1987 GENERAL CONFERENCE SERMON NOTES

Continued from September 15, 1987 Issue

MONDAY EVENING

Elder Joseph Flora (Iowa) opened. II Peter 3. God wants us to remember the words that have life. We are a forgetful people.

Pleasant memories are something we can take home with us. We need to press onward and upward. Remember your Creator.

Elder Ray Reed (Iowa) Hebrews 5:12-14. Christian living is a serious matter. If we do not believe God's Word it won't do us any good. We must build on that solid rock which is Christ. We must have faith to believe God's Word. The growth of the church must be lead by the fundamentals. We must not be conformed to this world. We must be a separate people, and live a Christ-like life. Are we preaching the full Gospel? Satan is deceiving many people. Let us spread God's Holy Word over the world. Jesus said, "You are my disciples, and must love one another." Are you building every day on the chief corner stone, Christ?

Elder Charles Leatherman (Ohio) I Thess. 5:1-8. There are people in the world that are haters of Christ. They may say let us alone. What matter of persons should we be? Let us press on. Peter told the people at Penecost repent and be baptized every one of you. Do we have the fear of God in our hearts at all times? Fear God and keep His commandments. Maybe we don't have enough fear. There will come a time people will fear if they aren't prepared to meet Christ when He comes. Let us hold fast to our profession. Keep the ordinance of the church as the Apostle Paul tells us. Let us draw near to God with a clean heart. Let us consider one another. The Apostle Paul said, "Let us walk honestly every day." Let us be ready and rejoice when Christ comes again.

Elder Edward Johnson (Ohio) closed. There is a time for us to reshape our souls if in need, then we can be a vessel of honor.

TUESDAY A.M.

Bro. Len Wertz (Kansas) opened. Romans 13:11-14. Time is getting short. We want to be achieving for Him. Are we living a righteous life? Christ is coming again for His church. There are a lot of Christians sleeping. It is our duty to warn the people the time is short. Jesus said, "Behold I come quickly." We must serve a living Savior.

Bible Study - Adults - The Christian Relation to Higher Powers. Rom. 13:1-7.

Children - Spying Out the Promised Land. Num. 13 and 14.

Bro. Henry Walker (California). Our greatest victory has not come yet. Our greatest victory is when Christ comes and we can be with Him. II Tim. 4:7-8. We need to keep our eyes on Christ. The Apostle Paul said, "I have fought a good fight." Jesus made guide lines for us to follow. Let us stay straight within the lines and live faithful to Him. Let each of us run that race to the end. Let us look straight ahead and follow that perfect line, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Don't let us lose our zeal and love for Christ. Keep Him within our

hearts. Our prize at the end of the race is life eternal. Let us press on and keep our eyes on Christ and live for Him. How can we press on? We need to become prayer warriors. We should study the Word of God and apply it to ourselves. We should set goals within our lives that we will follow Jesus faithfully until the end. God has directed us to follow that straight and narrow way. There is going to be victory for every one that follows the straight line of Jesus our Lord.

Bro. Ronald Marks (Pennsylvania) closed. God doesn't like lazy Christians. He wants us to work for Him. Jesus did the will of the Father. He went out and taught the people the way of salvation. Today is the day to serve the Lord. We must be willing workers for Him to gain our victory.

TUESDAY P.M. - MISSIONARY PROGRAM

Bro. Ronald Marks (Pennsylvania) opened. Matt. 18:10-15. His Word properly sung and properly used sometimes will bear fruit. Are we doing what we can to get God's Holy Word out to lost souls?

Bro. J. J. Otero (Indian Student from Torreon Navajo Mission) Choices are being made all the time. Some choices you make can affect you all your life. There is a responsibility when one graduates from High School. Some think its easy to live an easy life and get by in life. Two years ago I quit our Christian School in Cuba for a public school. It was not worth it. I was seeing bad things around me all the time. I wasn't living as a Christian at that time. Lots of people in public schools involved in drinking, smoking, drugs, sexual activities and other things that are wrong. Young people of the world today don't care what happens to their life. They don't want any responsibility. I saw a yellow sign in my school locker asking if I cared about my life. This sign put me to thinking. Every one should make the decision of Christ or Satan. I failed to follow Christ. I knew I wasn't living true to Christ. I knew this was the wrong way to go. I confessed to get back to Christ after being at Church one Sunday night six months ago. I knew I was on the wrong track. My life was so confused and I decided all the worldly answers are wrong. Finally I found that peace of mind what it is to live a Christian life. The Torreon Mission is a Christian Light to the community. There still are a lot of Indian people who are just living a life of ease and are neglecting their souls. Parents of the Indian young people need help to lead them to salvation. We need to have concern also for the young people. Do you care enough about our young people at Torreon to help them with their soul's salvation?

The Torreon School has been a blessed help to the Mission. The Staff need financial help to operate the Mission. What can I do for

the Mission? Write to the Mission and they will give you something to do.

Bro. Henry Walker (California) closed. We appreciated Bro. J. J.'s efforts this afternoon, pouring out his confession to us.

TUESDAY EVENING

Elder Ray Reed (Iowa) opened. Acts 16:9-10. Let us exalt the name of the Lord together. There is an enormous number of people all over the world who need to be taught the Holy Word.

Elder Galen Litfin (Oregon). Acts 1:6-8. God has a way of working with people to make plans so His will can be carried out. When a miracle happens most people are surprised. Do we have faith in God and His plans? In 1954 our church had its first service at Torreon Mission. Ray Martindale needed funds to build a church at Torreon. There were lots of alcoholics in the community at that time. Martindale reared a large family. They always had time to go to church. It took seventy-five loads of stone to build the first church at Torreon. It was a real effort for the Martindales to live an upright life. In 1956 three men of our church went to investigate Torreon. Martindale was looking for missionaries to come and help in the work as missionaries. Bro. Kyle Reed, Bro. Newton Jamison and Bro. Paul Byfield were the three men who investigated Torreon. The Dunkard Brethren Church took over the Mission in 1956. Interpreter, Lillian Litfin, also helped at that time to interpret for the Indians. There were very poor roads in the early days when the church was helping at the Mission. Let us all strive to build on that solid rock, Christ.

Elder Hayes Reed (California) closed. Bro. Reed told us of the great need for finances to help in the Mission field.

Sister Alice Heisey

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Peace"

History is written in abbreviated form in the headlines of our newspapers. One headline in a paper was entitled "Peace." This word daily takes top priority in conversations around the world. The possibility of atomic annihilation gives people a good reason to ponder this all important subject seriously. For nineteen hundred years this hopeful word has been seeking entrance into the hearts of men... too often in vain. Men who say they desire peace bring discord as the fruit of their efforts.

The desire for peace is not new. Adam and Eve sought peace with God. In the Buddhist religion, the highest goal of perfection is Nirvana which means the cessation of desire, hate, and mental confusion... in other words, peace. Some of the Greek philos-

ophers advocated a state of tranquility similar to apathy. Cicero, the great orator, told the people of his day, "I prefer the most unfair peace to the most righteous war." Statesmen have wrestled for centuries with "man's inhumanity to man."

As Christians, we can only look to the Son of Man to guide our attitudes about peace and its cultivation. Peace is a theme frequently mentioned in the Bible and the making of peace is an important part of the eternal ministry of Christ. When God's messengers announced His birth, it was with the promise of "peace on earth." The world may give outward peace, but it can never give the peace and rest to the soul that belongs to us as Christians. Peace on earth, as worldly-minded men define it, will never be realized.

Many of Christ's parables, such as the good Samaritan and the prodigal son, had to do with maintaining peaceful relationships, with neighbors and associates. Peace in interpersonal relationships helps to bring peace to other parts of our lives.

To the world's advisers of security, peace means only the absence of conflict. They indicate a balance of power is needed for peace but power will never lead to or achieve peace. There can't be true peace as long as instant annihilation continues to threaten mankind. There is no peace when fear of destruction rather than hope for reconciliation is the only power restraining the use of arsenals of nuclear destruction.

As Christians, we also reject the simplistic notion that peace is the absence of conflict. Peace is not merely a static condition of stability or order. As long as deprivation, suffering, alienation, self-seeking and exploitation exist, there will be no real peace. Rather, peace is within man himself. Peace ONLY comes via Spirit dwelling and the feeling of harmony with God that He brings.

Peace is a wholistic concept. The Old Testament Hebrew word for it is "shalom," meaning wholeness, soundness and completeness. Peace fulfills the total needs within a person. It is both spiritual and physical, inner and outer. It is only hypocritical for us to claim to have the peace of God when in our hearts we remain at war with others and are full of violence and destruction. God asks us to follow Him in peace in the midst of man's turbulent world, armed with His reassurance and redeeming love.

The love of Christ brings inner personal peace. His Spirit is the source of the wholeness of personality. As we reflect this peace through evangelism, we project to others what peace really is and where it may be found.

Regardless of the circumstances the world is in, we are still under God's sovereignty. The entrance of Christ into this world was to revolutionize our attitudes and thoughts and bring about the

environment for peace. As we better relate to other Christians our strength is increased and along with that our peace becomes more real.

Our hope is based on the risen Christ. All history is consummated in Him. He is our peace.

Brother Len Wertz

THE MIND OF CHRIST IN YOU

The Apostle Paul's instructions to the Church at Philippi are also for us today. Have this mind among yourselves which you have in Christ Jesus. We are called to be ambassadors for Christ, not to work only for the needs of ourselves but also for the needs of others. Let us not be among those whose unreasonable and selfish ideas are controlling their lives.

The Christ-like spirit should always dwell among us. When we have the mind of Christ among us we have chosen His way of life. Patience, love, longsuffering and kindness is implied in having the mind of Christ. We should always be ready to give a helping hand to others in time of need. All Christians should be humble to the Heavenly Father and obedient. Having the mind of Christ is a mind that is sensitive to the needs and concerns of others. True Christians are concerned about the ill and shut-ins among them. We have the record in God's Word what happened to one that was only concerned about himself and his possessions.

Christ sacrificed His life for the good of others. When He was here on earth He brought comfort and consolation to others. Christ humbled Himself and took on the form of a servant. When the disciples questioned Him about who should be the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven He said, "The first shall be last and the last shall be first."

We cannot afford to sacrifice the blessings that God is extending toward us. We can exchange eternal life for the perishing things of this world. When Christ met Zacchaeus He asked him to go to his home and talk with Him instead of confronting him about his life in a public place. The Christian is called upon to be Christ's ambassador here on earth. We have a model of Christ's understanding of mission. Christ helps us to understand Christian mission and we live this mission only as it stems from a reflection of that Christ-like spirit dwelling within us.

In having the mind of Christ we prove it by obedience to His saving Gospel. Also the Apostle Paul in the likeness of Christ was determined to go forward in the Lord's work and never lay his armour down. His instructions to Timothy and teachings show to us He had a great concern for the Church at that time and also for the future Church. He warned against false prophets who would be

injurious to the Church and lead away disciples after them and the many who would follow their pernicious ways.

True Christians who have the mind of Christ are steadfast, always abounding in the work of the Lord. Are we faithful and true to our Saviour who taught by example and precept? Are we walking in the light as He is in the light, to become a guiding light to those living in darkness? Much is implied in having the mind of Christ that the Apostle Paul has given to the Church to live by. When Jesus was here in person He said some honored Him with their lips but their hearts were far from Him.

To have the mind of Christ we accept His way of life and become a Christian light. The light of the world is Jesus. Come to that light it is shining for you. Today there are many professing Christians who do not believe in the teachings and observe all things He has commanded. By only accepting part of His saving Gospel we cannot be His faithful servants and have the mind of Christ living within us. Actions speak louder than words. Faith without works is dead. We can show forth the Lord's death till He comes with the fulfillment of works of righteousness. Having the mind of Christ includes accepting all of His saving Gospel He brought to earth.

If all professing Christians would accept the teachings given by Christ this world would become a much better place in which to live. When we have the mind of Christ our thoughts and actions become like His. We are to be steadfast, unmovable always abounding in the work of the Lord so much so for we know our labor is not in vain.

Before Christ left this world He commanded His disciples to "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." He promised to be with those who did so and to be with them to the end of the world at His second coming. Then He would receive those of His own unto Himself. He said, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." That is eternal rest for our souls.

By accepting all His saving Gospel we will receive a mind like Christ. Have we put all our faith and trust in Him? "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus."

Brother J. F. Marks
RD 3 Box 509
York, PA 17402

LIFE

It takes a lot of patience and God to build a life, and a lot of

courage to meet the stress and strife. It takes a lot of loving to make the wrong come right, but God must be in our heart if we want to build a life that will be able to stand. If we are going to get ahead in this life we will want Christ to be the One who guides us. Many people have left this old world. It was not the ones who made a lot of money who were the best, but those whose hearts were gentle and sympathies were broad and who gave of their best to help people start on that journey, Heavenward.

True religion is the life you are living, not the creed you profess. The preservation of our way of life depends on men who have strong faith in Jesus Christ, who are advancing spiritually with the strength that comes through patience. These are the people we need today to make this old world brighter and give one faith to go on as the road ahead some times doesn't look easy. Christ only had three short years to help people physically or spiritually. He healed many of their bodies and saved their souls. He wanted them free from sickness and the elements of the Devil. We are bought with a price. He is the bread of life. He is the only one we can come to with all our needs and He will supply. If we serve Him we will never hunger and thirst again.

Oh, the wonderful price our Blessed Redeemer paid for each of us. After He met with His beloved disciples in that upper room and had the feet-washing service, ate the supper with the twelve and then instituted the communion service and broke the bread and took the cup and after this was finished they sang a song and it was night. He left and took with Him three of His beloved disciples and went to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane. He fell on the ground and prayed that if it was possible the hour might pass from Him. "And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt."

My, the great price Christ paid for your soul and mine. The Bible tells us if the righteous scarcely be saved where will the ungodly and sinners appear. Christ also was tempted but He never gave in to the Devil. Many today let the government rule their lives. Let us put our trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us not be like the five virgins. Let us be ready when Christ calls. Let us look to God's Word, the way of life and it will set us free.

Sister E. M. Alltus

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

Receiving the Holy Ghost

J. H. Moore

Referring to Jesus, John the Baptist at one time said: "I indeed

have baptized you with water, but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost." (Mark 1:8) In the American Revision we have this rendering: "In water" and "In the Holy Spirit." This promise was fulfilled when the apostles and other saints "were filled with the Holy Ghost" on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:4). While thus filled, and under the influence of the Spirit, Peter told those inquiring after the way of salvation to repent and to be baptized for the remission of sins, and they should "receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (V. 38) In the next verse he says: "For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off." By promise is meant the remission of sins and the Holy Spirit. We read that those whom Philip baptized at Samaria (Acts 8:17), as well as the twelve whom Paul baptized at Ephesus (Acts 19:6), received the Holy Ghost.

All of this was in keeping with the promise that John made, as well as with what Peter had declared. To all penitent believers, who were buried with Christ in baptism, the promise was emphasized, and when they complied with the conditions, and had hands laid on them, they were filled with the Holy Ghost, and were thus greatly blessed. Peter, as we have seen, says that the promise is "to all that are afar off." That means us. It means "as many as the Lord our God shall call." (Acts 2:39), and the invitation is to all, to accept Jesus in faith and obedience, the gift of the Holy Ghost being assured.

SIXTY YEARS AGO

October 1, 1927

A QUESTION

Ada Whitman

A short time ago I sat under the sound of a minister's voice and heard him give an answer to a question which had been asked during a series of meetings which he was then holding.

The question was: What kind of entertainment should we as young people have? Others dance and attend the movies. In giving his answer he said, "This is a big question and due to lack of time I will not now answer it in full. But I believe that every church should have a parish house for the purpose of providing 'wholesome' entertainment for the young people and show nothing but 'wholesome pictures' on the screen. Of course these entertainments are to be supervised by older ones."

I was made to think on these things and wondered if the plain gospel which satisfies and saves the soul of the old is not sufficient to do the same for the young without any of these so called helpful accessories. Did Jesus make any difference or extra provisions in his plan of salvation for the young than for the old? It is true he

said, "feed my lambs," but what are they to be fed on? There seems to be a feeling in most churches today that there must be entertainment and amusement provided to hold the young folks in the fold. My dear young people, if we are not willing to make a full surrender and allow Jesus through the Holy Spirit to hold and keep us there is no other remedy. We may at times have to stand alone. We may at times have to stand the jeers of some of our associates but Jesus endured all these that we might be saved. We realize the young people have a great many temptations but if we sincerely and earnestly come to Jesus he has promised to help us in all of our temptations. He is able to take the desire of worldly things from us. Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the eyes and the lust of the flesh and the pride of life is not of the Father but is of the world. (1 John 2:15-16)

We cannot give part of our heart to Jesus and part to the world. He demands our whole heart and affections. We are commanded to keep ourselves unspotted from the world.

Some have said as long as these entertainments are wholesome they are alright. Do we desire these things to please Jesus or ourselves? Are we thus sowing to the spirit or to the flesh? I am wondering how long these "wholesome" entertainments would suffice. We are to shun the very appearance of evil.

Israel desired a king that they might be like other nations but by getting a king they got farther away from God.

The world is watching the Christian. How great an influence the young Christian may have over his or her associates. They may be able to reach hearts that older ones cannot and if they follow those things that lead worldward away from Christ what a great opportunity they have missed. What kind of a church would have been handed down to us if our church fathers, instead of meeting their problems, (and I am sure they had them), squarely and in the light of the Gospel, had allowed worldliness to lower its standard.

O, that we may all live loyal consistent lives and that those whose duty it is to preach and teach the Gospel may do so in its purity and give God's word in answer to these problems instead of man's opinion.

NEWS ITEM

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

The Englewood Congregation plans to meet October 24 for Communion service, if the Lord grants. Service will begin at 10:00 A.M. with Communion at 7:00 P.M.

Our invitation is to all who can come and worship with us
Saturday and Sunday.
Sister Ruth Speicher, Cor.

WHEN I CAN READ MY TITLE CLEAR

By Isaac Watts

When I can read my title clear,
To Mansions in the skies,
I bid farewell to every fear,
And wipe my weeping eyes.
Should earth against my soul engage,
And hellish darts be hurled,
Then I can smile at Satan's rage,
And face a frowning world.
Let cares like a wild deluge come,
And storms of sorrow fall;
May I but safely reach my home,
My God, My Heaven, My All.
There shall I bathe my weary soul
In seas of Heavenly rest,
And not a wave of trouble roll
Across my peaceful breast.

- Selected by L. H. Miller

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BIBLE MONITOR

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OCTOBER 15, 1987

NO. 20

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE BEAUTIFUL GATES OF GOLD

Are you walking the path that is leading
To the homeland of beauties untold?
Are the pastures in which you are feeding,
Near the beautiful gates of gold?

Are you walking the path of delusion,
Far away on the mountains so cold;
Or the broad way of sin and confusion
Far away from the gates of gold?

Soon the journey of earth shall be ending,
And the story of life will be told;
Shall your pathway, unerring, be wending
Tow'rd the beautiful gates of gold?

Will you come to the Savior for guidance
To this land rich with blessings untold?
He will show you the pathway of radiance
That will lead to the gates of gold.

- Haldor Lillenas

LIFE

Men have many valuables in this life. These valuables vary from person to person. Some value their health while others seemingly do not care for their body's well-being. But the most valuable of all is life itself.

Life is a gift from God. Men may by medical knowledge and care make life healthier and seemingly longer, but still men cannot give life. The spirit of life comes only from God.

God's creative power brought the whole world into existence. He replaced darkness with light and chaos with order. After He had made the whole world and all its creatures there was still a lack until He made man. Only man was made in God's image. Only man received the breath of life from God. It was that breath of life from God that made man's life so precious.

Life takes three forms. Physical life, Spiritual life and eternal life all come from God. The Spirit of life gave Adam physical life. This form of life is common to all mankind. All are the descendants of Adam. It is by this spirit of man that all understand and do the natural deeds of mankind. This spirit of man causes him to preserve and value his own life, yet it also causes him to do deeds that are contrary to God's direction.

Before Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden they possessed all three forms of life. But after their sin, they lost their Spiritual life and consequently eternal life. They were driven from the Garden lest they should eat of the tree of everlasting life. If they had, they would have ended the possibility of a Spiritual rebirth. They would have lived eternally in sin. God devised a system of sacrifices that constantly reminded people of their sins and their

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need for a blood sacrifice to gain forgiveness. These sacrifices also gave them an advance view of the Perfect Sacrifice who would once for all be sacrificed for the sins of mankind.

This gift of Spiritual life came through God's gift of His only begotten Son, Jesus. Men have no choice in their physical births but they must make a decided choice to receive the Spiritual birth. Unless men choose to be born again they will not be. They will only have their physical lives which will lead to eternal destruction rather than eternal life.

The Spiritual life is directed by the Holy Spirit of God. The Spirit of God moved on holy men of old times to write what God wished to have revealed to man. These writings are collected in the Holy Bible. Through the reading, study and hearing of the Word of God and by the promptings of the Spirit within the life of a man, he will know of the Spiritual life and the choice he must make to have it.

The result of the Spiritual life is eternal life. Eternity is not fully comprehended by the human mind. We are used to beginnings and endings. But we do understand that it is desirable. Eternal life is a life spent with our Eternal God in the glories of an eternal Heaven.

To have that eternal life and its joys and beauties, there must be a Spiritual rebirth during our sojourn on this earth. The natural man cannot inherit the eternal life. Only when there has been a fresh start and a change of priorities can there be a hope of eternal life entertained truthfully in the human heart.

The physical life has its pleasures and joys. It also has its pains and hardships. The Spiritual life has many joys and blessings that make our time pleasant. But there are also Spiritual struggles. There is no promise of a Spiritual life without challenges and trials. It is in continuing to be led by the Spirit, even when all seems bleak, that increases the faith and makes the race winable. Increased faith makes possible a successful journey that will lead to eternal life, where there will be no end of the bliss and joys of Heaven.

A Spiritual life is the necessary link between the physical life here and eternal life. It is necessary in this short lifetime to make the right choice — to choose to be Spiritually reborn and to live Spiritually so Eternity may become a happy reality.

Are you prepared for Eternity?

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

“The Christian Approach to Morals”

Sensuality and sexuality sells today. In fact they sell about

anything. They sell automobiles. Auto shows are so crowded with swim-suited models you would almost fail to see the cars. They sell airline tickets. The "friendly skies" are filled with sensual stewardesses. They sell toothpaste. Notice the way a girl catches her man after one brushing. They sell oriental rugs, fishing tackle, kitchen utensils, detergents and almost any product you'd like to name... except Bibles. Madison Avenue uses sensuality to promote everything from industrial machinery to slim line reducing pills. If a manufacturer adds a little sensuality to an ad, especially in the form of a beautiful female, he is assured that he'll sell more of the product. And we as Christians are caught up in this cesspool of immorality and it is difficult to go about our daily tasks without being bombarded with it.

Commercialization of sensuality is exploiting one of God's most special gifts which is reserved for the husband and wife relationship and it is nowhere else appropriate or right in His sight. I have noticed that even Christian people don't seem to be shocked by the many vulgar references to things that we see around us today. Sensual talk prevades living rooms that was once reserved for the bedroom.

To have a wholesome view of the sensual, you must study what the Bible has to say on the subject. You will discover that God's attitude toward these things is positive and good. It is man who has corrupted it through lust. This actually led to the laws of the Old Testament that clearly governed relationships between the sexes. There were laws that prescribed punishments for sensual abuse but there are also passages that present both the sanctity and beauty of physical relationships.

As you read Biblical passages relating to this important subject, you discover that the Bible clearly teaches definite moral approaches to our sensual life. This perspective is far better than the view of momentary pleasure that is prevalent in our culture.

It might be good to ask yourself: How would you react if your church began to use sensual photos to advertise a church function? Would you go along with it or would you oppose it? It can happen. It happened recently in England. A pastor put a photograph of a scantily clad model on the front page of his church paper. He argued that the church can't reject glamor, therefore it should take advantage of the present emphasis on it. This is how far the world's churches have degraded themselves as they search out how to become more a part of what society around them is dictating.

We are seeing a sensual-explosion today. This binge has two main aspects. One is that moral standards are disregarded, free love is advocated, illicit relations before marriage are condoned

and everything is welcomed as acceptable. Another aspect concerns those who uphold morality philosophically, but who have surrendered to the first group without a fight. Between these groups are conservative Christians who have the task of upholding biblical chastity.

Even many books are directed toward Christian readers today to push ideas about private matters which should be settled in prayer and private instruction. And I am not advocating that we should not understand this part of our behavior... but I am saying that the greatest Christian discretion should be used. In addition, I am concerned about the eroticism and vulgarisms involved in much of the literature.

As a Christian, contrary to contemporary opinion, we should have many truths about the aspects of the true union of two people. The Bible calls that union fellowship. This fellowship influences our relationship to the opposite sex. As a Christian, we respect the personality and character of another, therefore we maintain a high respect for the other person's body.

God created the male and female in completeness and perfection. They differ not only physically but psychologically. As we become more fully the masculine or feminine person that God expects us to be, we will become better adjusted and more complete in this part of our lives.

Romans 13:14 teaches us: "But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof."

I John 2:16: "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

From these vantage points of the Word, give the fullest consideration to your relationship with the opposite sex. Settle it in your heart to be free from the gross sins of our age.

Brother Len Wertz

SIXTY YEARS AGO

October 15, 1927

THE CHALLENGE — TO WHOM?

Ord L. Strayer

Youth is a priceless possession. Each day we live brings us nearer to the time when old age shall stamp its inevitable traces upon us and render us finally incapable of bearing the heat and burden of the day. Much money is being spent in this age by men and women not overly endowed with good judgment to stave off if

even for a little while the ravages of age. Many a grandmother appears on the street attired and primped according to much more advanced (?) style than her flapper granddaughter.

It is superfluous to say that this attitude cannot be maintained from the standpoint of the Bible. From cover to cover that Book rings with respect for the aged because of their age and greater experience. The elderly Christians have faced the problems of youth, the same problems faced by the young people of today and have profited by that experience. They have passed through critical periods in life. The records of these experiences have been burned in their memories and have left an indelible record. From the vast store of their experiences, their actions and reactions, their toils and struggles, successes and failures they are ever willing to give to the utmost to help those who ask.

The youth of the land, in contrast, look upon life either as a challenge to righteous living or merely as a great adventure, according as their early training has been. They are endowed with alert facilities. Their strength is unimpaired. They are swift of foot, alert of mind, supple of body, and all of their possibilities are before them. They stand on the threshold of a useful life, ready to meet the challenge which comes to everyone in no uncertain terms.

Whence this challenge? The legitimate business world does not want men and women who are not moral, loyal, honest, truthful and straightforward. These are Christian graces, taught by Christ throughout his ministry and promulgated by his church here on earth. The educational world wants men and women who can stimulate the best that is in the child and lead him into most efficient paths of usefulness. No teacher has ever been called great since the advent of Christ without studying the methods of the perfect Teacher. Industrial executives penalize or dismiss any of their employees who by their conduct destroy their efficiency. The church is the champion of stability. Our forefathers were stolid, plodding workers wresting their living from almost insurmountable circumstances, fighting against conditions and undergoing hardships which are not found anywhere in America today. Their simple honesty, meek spirits, simplicity of life and rugged industry were bywords in the homes of those who knew them as pass-words for our fathers wherever they went. It is greatly to be regretted that modern ideas and sharp practices have lost for us, as a church, in a measure the esteem we once held.

The challenge comes then, indirectly from the church, the agent of religious education here on earth, the teaching agency for the Bible the foundation of all Christianity. What is the Challenge? It is not wealth for wealth is abstract and is a burden to those possessing it. Nor is it a career, for success in business or the arts

is not in itself satisfying. Even social service to mankind is void of perfect satisfaction if the motives behind that service are questionable, if those rendering that service look toward the glory of men and not toward love of fellowmen. If the challenge comes from the church of God and Christianity is the foundation of stability, industrious lives and sterling honesty the challenge must be the promulgation of Christianity and the criterion for Christian living which Christ set up here on earth.

The challenge is to everybody, rich and poor, old and young, talented and untalented, wherever the individual might be. But the greatest responsibility rests upon the shoulders of the young people of the church who are founding homes and raising families who will be the church of the future. But someone says, it is the young people of today who are carrying things to their present state: too much authority has now been placed in the keeping of untried minds and it is this particular lack of experience and ripened intellect which is causing disregard of conventions, state church, and moral.

The main problem with the young people of today is that they are badly spoiled. Our leaders both educational and religious have been telling them that young folks have been neglected, badly treated, and suppressed. After their minds have been filled with this sort of fallacy, they are turned loose on the most intricate problems to prove some publicity-seekers theory. Many have gone so far as to say that this is an age of youth and the elderly have no function except as observers. This is so idiotic, to men and women who are familiar with the word of God, as to need no contradiction. It is true that youth is more alert, quicker to sense a new situation, stronger to carry out its plans but of what avail is indirected strength. Here is a simile, unlovely but distinctively practical. On my way to my place of business one morning I saw several elephants being herded along the street to a show grounds, and I was made to consider. The strength of this great beast is scarcely to be measured and left to his own devices in his wild state may uproot large trees, kill promiscuously and do untold damage. When trained and properly directed and his enormous strength turned to proper channels he can take the place of a powerful steam derrick. So it is with our young people. Their strength, alertness and exuberance of spirit hold great possibilities only if properly directed, and it is their duty to carry out the hard work of the church and the world. But while we are looking at that phase of the church's work, let us consider the function of the older church members. It is undoubtedly their duty and should be their privilege and pleasure as well to direct and plan the work to be done. Their experience has fitted them to be able to see the pitfalls in the way.

They can see difficulties ahead which the impetuous youth would never dream of.

So let the young work in the church. Give them all the work they can do. It will develop and train them and give them an outlet for superfluous energies. Train them in executive positions by placing them on the constructive and executive boards of the Church along with a majority of older heads who may develop and bring to the fore the sterling qualities these younger members possess and mold and ripen them for the good of the future church. In this way they will have a rich heritage of experience when the inevitable call comes and removes the elder group of workers in the vineyard.

In only a few short years those who are now the young people of the Church will, by compulsion, take over the reins of the church by reason of the calls of the grim reaper, and I appeal that we grasp the opportunity while we may and make the best advantage of our opportunities now. The Dunkard Brethren Church is so far, small in numbers. There is no reason to hope or anticipate at this time that it will become unwieldy from the point of size and glory in this prospect. Size never meant anything to Jesus. Time and again we are told that the presence of the Holy Spirit is the only necessary requisite. The great Teacher said "Fear not little flock for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom."

The future success or failure of the church depends on the loyalty the young people of the church exercise now and the teaching they give their children. If the plan is followed of each family instilling Dunkard principles into the children and due care taken to nurture and admonish them in the ways of the Lord it will not be many generations until we as a church need want for neither numbers, money or leaders, who in co-operation with the peerless Leader who will lead us into all truth, will make our Church a great and lasting power for good in the world. I plead with the fine group of young people, representatives of whom I met at Goshen in June to stand fast in the faith once delivered to the saints. Be loyal, be staunch, be true. Let us hold on to the distinctive principles of the church. Let us by our example show the world we have something for it. Let us covet for the church the position she once held in the eyes of the world. Let us be honest and true and loyal, industrious and helpful and neighborly and the world will realize that in this organization the old full Gospel Religion has come again to dwell in the hearts of men with renewed force and with a spirit of kindness and helpfulness and the Church we love will continue to grow and become a stronger and stronger influence in the hearts and lives of all mankind.

REFLECTIONS ON THE DEATH OF A FRIEND

"Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." (James 4:14)

About sixty hours ago (as I'm writing this) I was summoned to the phone for one of those calls a person wishes would never come. It was a close friend and Brother-in-the-Lord calling to tell me that another mutual friend and Brother had died the night before. This was quite a shock as he was only 36 years old and apparently in good health.

The reality of the startling fact of my friend's death came crashing over me like waves of the sea, knocking me mercilessly to the hard ground each time the waves came in. It just seemed like it couldn't be. But the day of the funeral came, and his lifeless body was committed to the earth. And now, I'm here meditating in the stillness of the night, reflecting on the passing of my friend.

Noah Lucabaugh died of an apparent heart attack. He was jogging toward his home and was found a short while later in an orchard through which he had been passing.

My own contact with Noah had been centered around being accountable to one another for prayers answered, verses memorized, and insights gleaned from meditation on scripture week by week. This had gone on for several months about two years ago. Ironically, my prayers now, seeking God's face on the "why" of Noah's untimely death, seem to go unanswered. The only Word from Heaven to me is that God knows about the situation and He cares about all those whose lives were touched by this tragedy.

One of the verses Noah and I memorized was the one at the beginning of this article, as well as several others on the same topic. I never dreamed at that time that I would be attending Noah's funeral in just two short years. Life is uncertain. "Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth." (Proverbs 27:1) Death is sure. Except for the return of the Lord Jesus, all of us will one day face death. "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." (Hebrews 9:27) None of us has the assurance of seeing tomorrow. You don't have to be eighty seven and a half years old and have a heart condition to be the next candidate for the death angel to strike.

One important thing to do is to be ready. "Therefore be ye also ready: For in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh." (Matthew 24:44) First, you need to be absolutely sure that you are ready to meet God. If you have any doubts whatever, please get in touch with your minister or some one with whom you feel you could talk over spiritual matters. God offers salvation to all through

the death of His Son Jesus Christ. He also offers assurance — that deep abiding peace of God — that you may know you are saved and in a right relationship with God. (See I John 5:13)

The second thing we need to do to be ready to die is to “set thy house in order.” (See II Kings 20:1 and Isaiah 38:1) In particular, this means that as husbands, our wives should be familiar with our business dealings, such as bank accounts, any debts outstanding, and the location of our will and other important papers and documents. It is imperative that each of us have a will, or the states in which we live will happily oblige us by taking their share first. We husbands need to seek ways to be sure that our debts would be paid in the event of our death, and that our wives and children could at least maintain a subsistent lifestyle until the children are grown. “But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.” (I Timothy 5:8) There is no particular indication that this responsibility stops at death. Due to the fact that it is nearly impossible for the average person to amass a great fortune to sit and be ready in the event of his death (and it’s not really Scriptural anyway), the church needs to be ready to step in and help out in such cases. It is a sad thing for a man to die and have his wife unprepared to handle the affairs of the household, and to have no provisions for her daily bread or to keep a roof over her head.

The third consideration in being prepared for death is, “Have I done enough for the Lord Jesus?” I believe many Christians exit this life wishing they would have done more for Christ. Think upon this now, so that any regrets might be minimized when it’s your time to meet Jesus. Maintain your personal relationship with God. Lead your family in their walk with Him. Actively participate in your local church so that you, your family, and others may experience spiritual growth. Be on the alert at all times for those special opportunities to share with someone about your faith in Jesus Christ. How many souls will be in Heaven because you shared the Good News of Salvation with them?

To think about death is not something we like to do. But only when we face death squarely, and act on what the Bible teaches we should do about death, can we truly live.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brother Robert Lehigh

ONE THOUGHTLESS ACT

One thoughtless act, and a life is ruined because of it. One thoughtless act, and someone’s whole day is turned upside down. One thoughtless act, and someone’s heart is grieved unneces-

sarily. Forgiveness can be granted, but the act and the resulting grief cannot be undone. For every action, there is a reaction, and all the apologies in the world can't change that fact.

Like the proverbial sack of feathers scattered to the four winds, we can't recall something we've done. We have to live with the results. We also must live with the results of what others do. This makes it doubly important for us to think before we act, to consider others as well as ourselves. Inconsiderate, irresponsible behavior can cause untold grief for all concerned. Like the ripple effect when a stone hits water, the results are far-reaching.

Some matters in life can be remedied, but others cannot. Where possible, we should make amends, and make the best of a bad situation. This helps to minimize the grief we've caused. When amends are made, we need to forgive the one who has grieved us, and to forgive ourselves when we have erred and caused grief. Forgiveness is like salve on a wound — it comforts, and relieves the pain. It also releases our hearts so we can go on from there.

Esau made a serious mistake and he could do nothing except live with the results. He was sure he was about to die from hunger, so he agreed to sell his birthright. He lived to regret his decision, but it couldn't be changed. See Gen. 25:29-34, 27:33-34. No amount of wishing or pleading could get back for Esau what he had lost. The blessing was given to his brother, and that couldn't be reversed either.

Often we are like Esau. In a moment of panic, or just on an impulse, we do something thoughtlessly. Later on, we regret it. Serious thought, or at least some thought, should be given to all our day-to-day activities, for they make up the whole of our lives. Little mistakes can multiply many times into grievous situations. If we live carelessly, we will reap accordingly, so we need to consider what the results of our actions will be.

Some people's lives seem to be made up of a series of thoughtless acts, not just one or two. They focus their attention on living just for the moment, then wonder why their world falls apart. "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise." Prov. 12:15. When we see people living foolishly with no regard for God, we need to do what we can to give them instruction in the Word. Whether they heed it or not is up to them, but we need to be prayerfully concerned.

In the book of Daniel, chapter 5, we can read about Belshazzar's thoughtlessness. He was really having a great time feasting and drinking, and decided to use something special for the occasion. The Temple vessels were brought to him to drink from, vessels which had been dedicated to the Lord. His carelessness brought judgment, for God said it was enough. We cannot make a mockery

of sacred things and get away with it.

Belshazzar knew what had happened in his father's life, but he still refused to give God His rightful place. He was lifted up in pride just as his father Nebuchadnezzar was, and he didn't get a second chance. When people determine in their hearts to ignore God and do as they please, they can't expect mercy. Belshazzar's thoughts were centered on just the present, very thoughtless considering how close he was to Eternity. His life was taken yet that night.

The rich man in the parable in Luke 12:16-21 didn't give much thought to his future either. His thoughts were only concerning the present time and how good he had it. He made plans to continue on in his life of ease, but such was not to be. He said to himself, "Take thine ease, eat, drink and be merry" (v. 19), but God said, "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" (v. 20)

God may not end our lives in a moment of foolishness, but we should take a lesson from these examples. We need to think beyond the present, and consider where our actions are taking us. The Bible will give us direction and purpose in life, and the Spirit will direct us too, so we can do what is right. Think about your life, pray for God's help and strive to serve Him acceptably. Be thoughtful about your life, not thoughtless, for Jesus' sake.

Sister Eileen Broadwater

BELIEF

"But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:" II Thess. 2:13.

Do you believe there is a God? There are so many in this world who do not believe there is a God, and that He has the power to save us. God is a wonderful help in time of trouble, sickness, and when death comes and takes a dear one Home. He is always near to help us. What would a child of God do without His help? He says He will help us in time of trouble. He will never leave us, if we are willing to follow in His footsteps.

We must believe He is the Christ and be willing to be born again so we have the right to be called His children. So many today say, "I am just as good as those in the church." I have asked them to tell me how they know but they cannot give me an answer.

The Bible says, "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my

works." James 2:17-18. Many people ask us what denomination we belong to. There is no denomination that can save any one. One must live the life Christ has laid down or they have no chance for a Home in Heaven.

How sad it will be if we miss that Home He has prepared for the faithful. Take the automobile, it is easy to handle, but if we disobey the law when we are driving it, we are in serious trouble. If we disobey the commandments Christ has set for us to follow we then are not prepared to dwell in the mansion He has prepared for us.

Dear ones, we must prove ourselves. To get into Christ comes by water baptism. First, we must repent so we can have our sins washed away. We don't have any record that the thief on the cross was at any time baptized. He was in God's hands, that was before Christ shed His precious blood so we could be saved.

Look at the time, when Jesus was washing the disciples' feet. Peter refused and Jesus told him he would have no fellowship with Christ. He was ready at that moment to have the Master wash his feet.

When Jesus was baptized, He did not need to be, but He wanted to set an example for us to follow. He had no sin, but we all have sinned and come short so we must be born again.

What kind of a belief do we have? Today we see so many churches that practice the Communion and call it the Lord's Supper and have it around noon. Do they believe the Word of God where it said that He had the Lord's Supper in the evening? After they ate the supper they had the communion, which is the bread and then the cup, and it also says they sang a hymn and went out and it was right. Do these dear ones believe the Word of God?

It seems so very easy to find an excuse for some of the things done. In Bible times false prophets found excuses. But I read that the Word of God is the same yesterday, today and forever. The devil is trying but there is no way he can change it.

The devil knew Jesus as the Holy One of God. A Christian must have a firm foundation, one that cannot be shaken, following in the Master's footsteps.

We hear today of the wonderful healing going on. Are their bodies really healed? How many are paid to go through the act? To me this is a serious thing. Why don't they follow the Bible and let the ones who are sick call for the Elders and let them pray and anoint them. We read then their sins will be forgiven and through faith they will be made well. If they follow Christ's way and if it is His will, they will get well, if not they are now ready to go to dwell with Him.

We must stay by the Word of God. Keep on a firm foundation till

Christ comes to call us home.

Sister E. M. Alltus

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

The New Birth

J. H. Moore

Nicodemus, a ruler among the Jews, and a man of some distinction, heard much about the preaching and work of Jesus, and one night called on him, evidently seeking information regarding his claims. Jesus at once presented, for his consideration, one of the fundamentals of his teachings, saying: "Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." Seeing that he was not understood, he added this: "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." (John 3:3-5) By "born of water," in this instance, baptism is meant. It can mean nothing else.

To be born of the Spirit means not only the receiving of the Spirit, but it includes "being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." (1 Peter 1:23) The Word of God, the seed of the kingdom, is planted in the heart. The heart takes hold of the Word, and the Word takes hold of the heart, resulting in a new creature, hence a new birth, — born from above, born of God, born of the Spirit. All of this must be understood in connection with what James 1:18 says: "Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth," — the Word and the Spirit playing their active parts.

In a sense, it is a twofold birth, — born of water, born of the Spirit. It is a water baptism and also a Spirit baptism. In the water baptism the body is completely enveloped. In the Spirit baptism the soul or spirit of man is baptized in the Spirit, — is brought completely under the influence of the Spirit. The birth of water and the birth of the Spirit must be considered jointly. By divine appointment they go together. There is no separating them with the blessed promises following.

Jesus makes the twofold birth of water and of the Spirit essential to an entrance into the kingdom. We enter the world through a material birth, but the kingdom of God must be entered through the spiritual birth; that is, born of water and of the Spirit. Man administers the rite of water baptism. But God, through Jesus Christ, his Son, administers the Spirit baptism. This is in accord with what John the Baptist taught when he said: "I indeed baptize you with water, but he (Jesus) shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost."

NEWS ITEMS

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Lord willing, the Pleasant Ridge Congregation plans to have fall Lovefeast services on November 14-15, 1987. Services will begin Saturday morning, at 11:00. Come and worship with us.

Sister Eileen Broadwater, Cor.

QUINTER, KANSAS

The Quinter Congregation will be holding revival meetings, November 8 through 15, with Brother Fred Pifer as evangelist. We extend a warm invitation to everyone. If you cannot attend, we would very much appreciate your prayers for God's blessing upon these meetings.

Sister Julie Litfin, Cor.

THANK YOU

I want to thank the brethren and sisters for all their prayers, cards and thoughts of me while I was in the hospital and since I am home. God bless you all.

Sister Edna Flick

PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Lord willing, the Plevna Congregation will hold a Harvest Meeting, November 8. Bro. Dennis St. John will be the speaker.

We invite all to this day of worship and fellowship.

Sister Verda Lorenz, Cor.



Stephen Girard, when surrounded by immense wealth, wrote thus to a friend: "As to myself, I live like a galley-slave, constantly occupied, and often passing the night without sleeping. I am wrapped in affairs, and worn out with care. I do not value fortune. When I rise in the morning, my only effort is to labor so hard during the day that, when night comes, I may be enabled to sleep soundly." It is said that when Mr. Astor was once congratulated for his wealth, he replied by pointing to his pile of bonds and maps of property, at the same time inquiring, "Would you like to manage these matters for your board and clothes?" Jay Gould said he was kept on the drive from morning till night, the money he had made having enslaved him.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR NOVEMBER 1987

November 1 - Godly Sorrow - II Cor. 7:1-16.

1. What is Godly sorrow and what does it produce?
2. Does the individual feel better from Godly sorrow?

November 8 - Poverty and Riches - II Cor. 8:1-24.

1. How do we determine how much we shall give? Mark 12:41-44.
2. To those who give freely what promise is made? Malachi 3:10.

November 15 - God Loves a Cheerful Giver - II Cor. 9:1-15.

1. How does Paul liken our giving? verse 6.
2. What was God's Great Gift to man? John 3:16.

November 22 - Thanksgiving - Psalms 50:1-23.

1. What do we have to offer unto God? verse 14.
2. In verse 23 what promise is given?

November 29 - Apostolic Authority - II Cor. 10:1-18.

1. Of whom did Paul receive his authority? verse 8.
2. How and by whom do we measure ourselves? verse 12.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR NOVEMBER 1987

November 1 - Popularity - John 12:35-50, Col. 3:22-25.

1. Of whom do we seek popularity? John 12:43.
2. Of whom will we receive a reward? Col. 3:24.

November 8 - Commandments - Exodus 20:1-26, Matt. 19:17-22,
I John 5:1-3.

1. Which is the First Commandment? Exodus 20:3.
2. What is the test of love? I John 5:2-3.

November 15 - Come and Dine - Luke 14:16-24, John 21:10-13.

1. Would we consider it an honor to be invited to a feast like this?
2. In the parable of the great supper, who made the supper?

November 22 - Thanksgiving - Psalms 107:1-20, I Tim. 4:1-8.

1. What does Paul say in Phil. 4:6 about thanksgiving?
2. Why should we praise the Lord - Psalms 107:8-9.

November 29 - The Lame Man - Acts 3:1-12.

1. How long had the man been in this condition? verse 2.
2. Was the man happy with what he received? verse 8.

Paul Stump
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BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THAT WILL BE GLORY

When the golden gates are opened,
And I enter into rest,
And behold the blessed Saviour,
And am folded to his breast —

When this weary way has ended,
With its conflict sharp and long,
And the peace and joy of heaven
Fills the heart and tunes the song —

Then the promised rest and glory
In fruition shall be known,
And the long imagined splendor
Into knowledge shall have grown.

O, but 'tis the One in glory
It will be so good to meet,
And to cast my crown before him
Down at his beloved feet.

And for ever bear the likeness
Of the Lord who died for me,
And for ever join the chorus
Of the ransomed and the free.

- C. Billett

FORFEITING OUR GLORY

"But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering." 1 Cor. 11:15. In this short verse a personal glory is given and immediately taken away for a greater good. A woman is to have uncut hair. She should be taught from youth that cutting her hair displeases God. God has given her her hair for a glory. Although a man may affect a feminine style by wearing long hair, his hair is not a glory but a shame unto him.

Having her hair uncut is a glory to her for it is pleasing to God. But lest she become proud in her personal glory, she is told to place that glory upon her head in such a way that it can be covered. She is to yield her glory to what honors God in obedience and submission.

This is but one example of the Christian's submission of self to the overall good of the Church and her Lord. We have all been given certain talents and abilities. We are expected to use these God-given gifts. It often becomes very easy for us to use them in self-serving ways. As a certain glory surrounds the public display of these talents it is a natural breeding ground for pride. Since these talents are given by God they are to be used in the way that will bring the greatest glory to Him rather than to ourselves.

The Christian, even by the very name, is said to be like Christ. The Christian finds his perfect example in Jesus. No one ever gave up more than He did when He came to this earth and took upon Himself the humble fashion of mankind. He went even further by living a meek, quiet life that showed little of His glory except for the miracles performed for the benefit of others not Himself. His life was ended on earth by a shameful death reserved for the worst of

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criminals. He had to be buried in a borrowed tomb for He who had made the world had no worldly possessions. His renouncement of personal glory serves as an example for those who bear His Name.

The world about us has an opposite view of worldly glory. It is their desire to be seen and known by all possible. There are many ways used to secure the attention of those about them. It may be through the ridiculous or the gaudy. Unfortunately this seeking for personal glory has been allowed to slip into churches. Public services are filled with individuals performing for glory. Their talents are God-given but because of their popularity, He does not receive the credit nor glory due Him. Soloists, choirs, directors of various functions as well as paid ministers all receive glory for their services. These talents should be used in conjunction with the total congregation rather than in conspicuous show. There is a place for the minister, deacon and choirister but it is as a servant of the Church not as one seeking self glory.

It is so easy to consider our particular talents as so necessary that they must be displayed in public often. Some have even developed such a high opinion of their talents that they have placed a price upon their performance.

Talents are God-given. For many this becomes a reason to display them profusely. Their contention is that if given by God then they must conspicuously show that talent off. God may well have given them a talent but He gave it to be used for His Glory not theirs. If one has been given the talent of a beautiful singing voice, it would be better used to lead the whole congregation in praise or to teach others how they might better use their voices, rather than to be shown off as a soloist or member of a small performing group.

The body of Christ, the Church, is made up of many members. All members are necessary. None are to be unduly honored especially if it harms the other members and causes them to shrink from exercising their God-given talents.

There is a place for encouragement and even praise for those who do exercise as God has enabled them. But there is no place for a blind sub-serviance to those who would garner the glory. Those being glorified are as prone to error as others and need the correction that is necessary for the whole body.

God gives very special talents to some, but He does not give to place them on pedestals but that they may use those talents to bring even more glory to Him, by humbly using those talents along with other members. He will be more pleased and more glorified by a humble use of those talents He has given, than by a vain public show that excites pride.

We have seen many recently who have been involved in religious services who have had a great fall. This confirms the Biblical axiom

that pride will produce a great fall. When the glory that belongs to God is appropriated by men there will be a great fall.

Use your God-given talents to God's glory along with all the Family of God. It will lead you to a greater glory in Heaven.

SIXTY YEARS AGO

November 1, 1927

THE DUNKARD BRETHREN CHURCH (A CHALLENGE)

F. B. Surbey

It has been said that young people are a challenge to the church, but we wish to say that the Dunkard Brethren Church is also a challenge to our young people. It is a challenge to us older ones. Yes, it is a challenge, a real challenge, to us all.

The Dunkard Brethren Church is a challenge to us in many ways:

1. Because of her existence. It is a fact that she is organized and in existence. Why should not that alone call forth all our efforts to maintain the church. Who wants to put our hand to the plow and then look back? Who does not want to see something that cost so much and is so valuable, permanently established? What looks worse to a business man than to pass some of the large structures that were begun during the war, and see them half finished; or to pass business blocks, with their advertisements on the windows, but now empty because the business failed? The once thriving business soon came to naught. Shall it be said of the Dunkard Brethren church: These people did not count the cost, they lacked faith, they had no vision, no administrative ability, no government? To every member enrolled, the church's very existence is a challenge.

2. Because of her founders. To the youth of today it is your fathers that founded the Dunkard Brethren Church. What son or daughter having any red blood of American loyalty, does not want to help maintain or preserve the good home or the honorable business that the parents founded? Many a son has continued and promoted, with a degree of pride, the business of his father until for generations the name itself honored the business. Many a child has purchased the old homestead at a greater cost than other properties were worth, because it was father's and mother's home. These children have taken special pains to preserve the old landmarks sacred to memory, and vital in the making of their characters. To the present fathers, the founders of the church were Mack, Becker, Sauer and a host of others of a few centuries ago. To them the Apostolic fathers were the founders, and to them, Christ.

So the church becomes a challenge to us because of these founders who had faith in God, and in whom we have faith.

3. Because she is OUR Church. Who has not learned to love the organization or cause they represent? Even the small child loves its own home playrooms. The pupils love and boost their own school. The American citizens, children and all, love their own country.

"Breathes there a man with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said:
'This is my own, my native land'?"

What member of a family is not charmed at the thought of home? For my home I will sacrifice because it is mine, my only one. My church is a challenge to me because I know no other so good. We pledge our loyalty to our church because here WE worship God. In our church we think we can best fulfill all the commands of God. Here we contend for the faith once for all delivered to the Saints.

"Faith of our fathers! Holy Faith!
We will be true to thee 'till death!"

4. Because she has enemies. Because we are different from other churches, and different from the world, that only gives us the right to exist as a separate body, and that makes us enemies. Our church always had enemies and always will have. They are within and without. From within they say our decisions are wrong and need not be obeyed. From without they say our doctrines are non-essential; and yet the churches that obeyed not these decisions and doctrines have gone into worldliness, lost their identity and their spiritual power. Because we have been called out of the world to be separate, the world scoffs at us; but they scoffed at Jesus, they persecuted the Apostles, and they will persecute us. We must obey God rather than man. We must be a light to the world, and a friend of God. "Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." Jas. 4:4. Christ and the Apostles gave their lives for the church, what have we given for her. "These are they which come out of great tribulations, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." Rev. 7:14. Because of the tribulations we must pass through, and the danger the church is facing before her enemies, the challenge to defend the church is a great one.

"O, watch and fight and pray;
The battle ne'er give o'er:
Renew it boldly every day,
And help divine implore."

5. Because of her value. The four challenges given thus far are,

in themselves, not sufficient to warrant the existence of the Dunkard Brethren Church. She must have value. Our church is valuable: (1) Because of her cost, Our church cost suffering and death to some of the fathers. It cost groanings and spirit, and physical and financial sacrifices to many others. Shall these sacrifices have been in vain? (2) Our church is valuable because of her opportunities offered. She gives the opportunity for Christian education, growth and training. How much Christianity would there be in some of our future children were it not for our church? Here we are taught the Bible, the prayer life, and the songs of Zion. (3) Our church is valuable because she supplies the needs of our souls. We come to her to have the means applied that are provided to unload our burden of sin, to be spiritually fed, and to be comforted in sorrow. (4) Our church is valuable because she is our life-boat in which we sail to our eternal reward. Our captain is on the boat and without him and his boat, the storms of life would overcome us, and we would drown in the deeps of sin. Our church is a challenge because of her great value, and must therefore be preserved and maintained. In order to perpetuate our church we must have young people in it. Yes, and more than that. Our young people must be DUNKARD young people. A Dunkard Brethren Church with ever so many young people in it, is doomed as a Dunkard Brethren Church just the same as though she had none, unless these young people are of the Dunkard faith and practice. Herein lies the challenge to the older ones, especially the parents and the church elders. The young people then have the challenge to hand down a Dunkard Brethren Church to their children.

Let us accept our challenge courageously, so that the faith of our fathers, founded by Mack in 1708, brought to America by Becker in 1719, and re-established by us in 1926, shall not perish from the earth nor from our several communities.

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

“Freedom...”

Many people today are saying that everyone is entitled to absolute freedom. You should be able to do what you want to do when you want to do it! No one else has the right to interfere. This philosophy has produced many confrontations with the law, has caused destruction of property, and has resulted in chaos in churches. Believers in absolute freedom decry the “restrictive laws” and campaign for revolution that will give everyone their own way.

The problem of how much freedom you can have didn't originate with this generation. It originated in the Garden of Eden when

Eve expressed her freedom by eating the forbidden fruit. She looked at the Lord's command as an encroachment on her freedom, so she disobeyed the restriction and was made to pay the consequences. Ever since that time man has been struggling for a balance between what he thinks is stifling determinism and obsessive freedom.

Restrictions are necessary in all of our lives to keep a healthy balance and right perspective. They take away experimentation in permissiveness. They set limits on the types of literature to read, how far can be gone in experimenting with sensual freedoms, what kinds of music can be listened to and sung, clothing styles, hair styles and the like. Perhaps at no other time in history were restrictions so necessary. Whether they are personally enforced through the church body, they are needed.

Many things that are popular today have the "free" label attached to them: free speech, free love, free art, free expression. Much of what is passing for freedom is nothing more than outright anarchy. The kind of freedom people desire involves freedom from responsibility to any other person, to the church or even to society. It means "doing our own thing" and limitless self-expression, regardless of how it affects others. This kind of freedom centers upon man himself. The idea that God is sovereign no longer holds sway over the minds of such thinkers. Man is supreme, autonomous, free to do as he pleases. Absolute laws have no meaning.

Man's personal freedoms have led to lung cancer, alcoholism, drug abuse, suicide, venereal disease, mental diseases and even environmental pollution. Autonomous man cannot escape the results of the undisciplined life. Let's face it. Man is dependent, not autonomous. He was created free to answer "yes" or "no" to God, but he was not given the capacity of being nonanswerable to God. He must say "yes" or "no" to the Creator... then his freedom is governed by the answer he gives.

To say "no" to God is to forfeit the basis of all true freedom offered by Him through Jesus Christ who make us truly free through the forgiveness of sins and the infilling of the Holy Spirit. By himself, man cannot be free from his own ego and sin. When we claim to be free from God, we become a slave to ourselves and fall into our own great bondage.

To some, obedience to God is a denial of freedom. This is a Biblical paradox. There is NO TRUE FREEDOM apart from service and submission to God... the Creator of freedom. Joshua said: "Choose this day whom you will serve..." To become obsessed with self-willed freedom only brings a denial of that freedom and we become slaves. Freedom within the context of a God-controlled universe in obedience to God's Word is TRUE

FREEDOM. "If the Son makes you free, then you will be free indeed."

If we choose to be a slave of Christ's, we choose freedom. If we choose freedom in the wrong way, we become slaves. We make the choice... we must accept the consequences!

Christian freedom is not the freedom to do anything we please without consideration of the consequences. Two Biblical principles apply here. One is that our freedom is restricted by our **RELATIONSHIP TO GOD**. God is the object of our love and this love compels us to be His servants. Secondly, our freedom is restricted by our **RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS**. As Christians, we are concerned about how our actions affect other people. Even if we have deep insights into the Christian experience, we approach others in the greatest consideration for their maturity.

In deciding how you will use your freedom, you have to consider carefully God's place in your life. Is He at the center of your thinking and planning? Have you accepted the full implications of the freedom that He has offered to you? Are you free from your sins? Once you settle these questions, you will get a sense of how free you really can become. The basis of true freedom cannot be found until you have been fully related to the God of all freedom through His Son, Jesus Christ.

How free are we? We are as free as we apply the "Golden Rule" to our life. We are as free as we allow the Holy Spirit to exercise the fullness of the fruits of the Spirit in our lives. **WHERE THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS, THERE IS LIBERTY... FREEDOM!** (II Cor. 3:17) In Him... we are **FREE** indeed!

Brother Len Wertz

JESUS CHRIST IS LORD

Isaiah 43:11, "I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour."

John 20:28, "And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and My God."

I Corinthians 12:3-6, "Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all."

Romans 5:1, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"

Philippians 2:9-11, "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him,

and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

The words "the Lord Jesus Christ" falls from many lips but we are concerned that the Church, as a whole, has lost the real meaning of these words. We would like to take a look at three areas where we believe Jesus Christ is proclaimed to be Lord within Holy Scripture.

Our first two opening scriptures show that Jesus Christ is Lord in the fact that He is God. While the truth of the Trinity contains mysteries that our human mind cannot fathom it is one of the most important teachings in Holy Scripture. Space will not permit the quoting of the many verses that could, and perhaps should, be used in this area of our study. One that we will use the space to quote is Matthew 1:23, "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." The two verses previous to this one tells us that "Thou shalt call his name Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins." It is then stated, that our quoted verse is an answer to prophecy. Very simply stated, if Jesus Christ was not virgin born then He is not God. If He is not God then He cannot be called Lord. This is why we are emphatic about the fact of the virgin birth and concerned about translations that cause questions about this very important fact. If Jesus Christ is not Lord, God in the flesh, then the rest that we have to share is without meaning.

Our second verses of scripture, taken from I Corinthians, speaks to us of the fact that Jesus Christ is Lord of the Church. Again, space will not permit the many verses that could be quoted on this phase of our thinking.

We would like to take some time to think about the words, "and no man can say that Jesus Christ is the Lord but by the Holy Ghost." We believe that Paul is speaking about something deeper than merely mouthing words. To some that feel that the Holy Spirit moves upon even those who are unsaved, and, worse yet, apostates, when these words are spoken, we would have to say, in love, that we cannot agree. We base this thinking on the words of our Lord in Matthew 7:21-23, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." When we compare this

with Romans 8:14 "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God," we come to the conclusion that the Holy Ghost (or Spirit) does not cause unsaved individuals or apostates to say that Jesus Christ is Lord, though they may mouth these words. In addition to this, merely mouthing these words does not prove that an individual is a genuine Christian.

As our Lord stated, Jesus Christ as Lord of the Church should mean that we desire to do the will of the Father. We believe the will of the Father is given within the Holy Book, the Holy Bible. Down through the ages there have been those who opposed the teachings of the Apostles. But it is through the Apostles that the will of God was made known in the first century Church. Their teachings are recorded within Holy Scripture. If Jesus Christ is truly Lord of the Church she should be following the words of Holy Scripture.

Our verse taken from Romans speaks of Jesus Christ being the Lord of our personal life. To have true peace with God we must accept His gift of the shed blood of Jesus Christ. It is only then that we can truly call Jesus Christ Lord. But merely calling him Lord is not enough. He wants to truly BE Lord of our life. This means forsaking self and putting Him on the throne of our heart and mind.

Our last verse taken from Philipians, we believe, talks of a time when every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. But, sad to say, for many it will be in vain. Those who deny His deity will be forever lost. Those who speak His name but refuse to follow His commandments will look upon Him in shame. Those who have never accepted Him as Savior and Lord will spend eternity in hell. Only those who join God the Father in highly exalting Him will bow in peace.

It is impossible to say everything on this subject that should be said. Jesus Christ should be our all in all. He alone, (along with the Trinity), is worthy of our praise and worship. Let us strive to truly make Him Lord of our life and of the Church and recognize Him as God.

James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
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Two ministers met one Saturday in a station as they were going to preach in their respective places on Sunday. "I hope," said one to the other, "the Great Master will give you His face tomorrow." "Well, if He does not," was the reply, "I will speak well of Him behind His back."

THE HOLY BIBLE

1.
The Holy Bible is a book
Written for the good of men,
It contains all that we need
To live according to God's plan.

2.
The Author ever was and is
He knows no beginning or end,
His Spirit empowered the writers
To take up their scroll and pen.

3.
They did not write their own thoughts
They wrote what God dictated,
They were exacting in their work,
We accept it as it's stated.

4.
His work is forever settled
So says Jesus Christ our Lord,
Heaven and earth shall pass away
But never shall my Word.

5.
It starts with the Book of Genesis
Which tells about creation
It ends with many prophecies
In the Book of Revelation.

6.
Every prophecy will be fulfilled
Just as God said it would,
It behooves every one to live
The life we know we should.

7.
On the pages of the Bible
We are told of peace and strife,
Strife we have to overcome
That we may gain Eternal Life.

8.
We are to love our enemies
And our neighbors as our-self,
With the many poor and needy
It's our God given duty to help.

9.
When we have compassion on others
Those needy folks that we see,
Jesus says, "What you do for them
You, also are doing for me."

10.
Jesus was the greatest teacher
That ever graced the earth,
He was an unusual Person
From the first day of His birth.

11.
He was born in Bethlehem
A small city in Judea,
He was laid within a manger
Which was our God's idea.

12.
Because of the sin of Adam
And because of the sin of man,
God provides a substitution
In bringing salvation's plan.

13.
It required the death of Jesus
On the Cross of Calvary,
To bring to us salvation
And from sin to set us free.

14.
There He hung upon the Cross
Between Heaven and the earth,
God had so determined
Long before Christ's birth.

15.
They gave Him vinegar on a reed
They pierced Him with a sword,
Forthwith there came out water
From the side of our dear Lord.

16.
In anguish He cried out
When life was about to flee,
My God, My God, just why
Hast thou forsaken me?

17.
All around that awful scene
Were people watching on,
Jesus bowed His head and cried
IT IS FINISHED, and was gone.

18.
They prepared the Lord for burial
His disciples felt forlorn,
But Jesus kept His promise
Coming forth on Easter Morn.

19.
He appeared before the many,
After He arose from the dead,
Because I live, so shall you,
Are some of the Words He said.

20.
He ascended back to Heaven
He completed His Father's Will,
He's coming again to receive us,
His promises to fulfill.

Brother Paul R. Myers

THIS I KNOW

I do not know what next may come
Across my pilgrim way.

I do not know tomorrow's road
Nor see beyond today.

But this I know — my Savior knows
The path I cannot see,
And I can trust His wounded hand
To guide and care for me.

I do not know what may befall
Of sunshine or of rain.

I do not know what may be mine
Of pleasure or of pain.

But this I know — my Savior knows,
And whatsoe'er it be,
Still I can trust His love to give
What will be best for me.

I do not know what still awaits
Or what the morrow brings,
But with the glad salute of faith
I hail its opening wings!

For this I know — that in my Lord
Shall all my needs be met,
And I can trust the heart of Him
Who has not failed me yet.

- E. Margaret Clarkson

Submitted by Sister Ruthanna Sauerwein

STRENGTHEN THE THINGS THAT REMAIN

"Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee." Rev. 3:2-3.

In Sardis there were a few faithful ones. If we go to church and hear a sermon and receive no spiritual food to take home, it is very sad.

Dear ones, let us try to hold Christ up before the people who come to hear our preaching so they will be able to have things to think of during the week that will strengthen them and make them

feel it was well they were there. We will also be strengthened to fight the things thrown our way. Many churches have a form but are spiritually dead.

We are known by our works. We must be watchful and strong. We must be always on our guard so the things that we once held sacred are not let die. Let each of us strive a little harder so what we do will please the Blessed Lord. We all know that no one is perfect in this old world, but we are to keep on toward a more perfect life.

Let us be ready when Jesus calls us to leave and come to a better home, not made of hands, but eternal in the Heavens. Eyes have not seen or ears heard the wonderful things that are in store for those who follow the Lord.

If we claim to be a child of God but we are not, it will be very sad for us when Christ comes to take His children home. We are told in the last days many will say, "Lord, Lord, open unto us," but He will say, "Depart, I never knew you." He will answer them and say, "You honor me with your lips, but your heart is far from me."

Oh, let us be ready and have our lamp burning bright, for Christ's coming may be nigh at the door. Many profess to know Christ but deny Him by their works. We must be obedient and help the Church.

Let us blot out the sin that does so easily upset us. We are to answer to God for our thoughts. Let our thoughts build up not destroy.

It seems today that sin is not dealt with as it was when we were small. So often we try to justify ourselves by comparing our lives with others.

I think we need more Daniels. Dare to be a Daniel. God's words are given us to make us stronger, so we can fight the enemy. God's word will strengthen us so we can fight the good fight of faith. Jesus knows our weakness and is always ready to help. We all know our weak spots. We cannot hide anything from our Saviour.

Esau sold his birthright, but the tears he shed were too late. No one knows what is ahead of us, for the future is hidden in His hands. But we are promised as His children He will pour out His blessings upon us.

When each of us was born again by baptism and united with the Church, that Christ set up, our names were recorded or written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Do we each stand firm on the principles of the Church as founded in the Word of God? Does our daily job mean more to us than Christ? Study, dear ones, to show thyself approved unto God.

We all have temptations. If we don't yield, the next time we are

tempted we are stronger and it is easier to overcome that temptation.

Oh, how our forefathers seemed to have something we don't have. How faithful the ministers were. They worked hard each day but always had time to serve the Lord. Let us strengthen the things that remain.

Sister E. M. Alltus

IT IS TIME TO WAKE UP!

"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed." Romans 3:11.

A recent poll taken shows that the average "Christian" prays only five minutes per day. Some pray more and some less, but this is average. Can this "average" Christian weather the storms of life, face persecution, witness and preach to others, lift up the poor and downtrodden, and do the work of the Church on only five minutes of prayer a day? It is unlikely. Most "Christians" today leave the work of the Church, including the praying, up to their pastor or minister. No wonder the cults, the charismatics, Hindus, Muslims, and the like are making such great strides today. It is time to wake up.

In times past the Saint of God was easily recognized. His dress and appearance were different from that of the world. Not only that, but this humble, modest demeanor was carried over into his home. Today the mansions that many Christians live in betray the inward workings of their heart. Does not the scripture say where your treasure is, there your heart is also? Can we claim a hope toward heaven when we live on earth as if we are staying forever? It is time to wake up.

With billions spent on amusements of all kinds today, and with household pets being treated better than many children, the Christian faces challenges of all kinds. But yet, with the world in the shape it is in, with nuclear arms pointed at each other, why is the cry of the gospel not loud enough for the world to hear? Could it be that the church has been smitten by riches, and easily acquired pleasures, and the cares of this world so that we are not crying out? With twenty million abortions in the United States since 1973, with Christians being thrown in jail for trying to properly educate their children, and with suicide the leading cause of death in teenagers, do we not see the need LIKE NEVER BEFORE to share the love of Jesus with a lost and dying world? Where is our compassion, like Jesus had, for this sin-cursed, rotting, stinking world and the souls round about us that are only

inches from eternity? Are we more inclined to work and earn extra money than to spend time in prayer or witnessing to our neighbor? What about the spiritual welfare of our children? Are we more interested in teaching our children a trade than in the welfare of their immortal soul? It is time to wake up!

Are the ministers of the Church run ragged while we play and entertain ourselves? Is the world aware of all the internal strife that goes on in our local assemblies, ruining our testimony and putting us in the same class as those radio and television "prophets" in their mind? All of us that name the name of Christ should spend HOURS in prayer for our assemblies, for our ministers, for our neighbors, for our children. The need is great. Our God is able. It is indeed time to wake up!

"Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way:" 1 Samuel 12:23.

Brother L. H. Miller
RD #2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

NEWS ITEMS

WALNUT GROVE, MARYLAND

During the summer we were made to rejoice when a couple desired to fellowship with us. They were received on their former baptisms and Deacon's office.

On August 15 a young man was received into the church by Christian baptism. May he ever grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord. We now have more responsibility as older ones in the faith to be persuasive examples to the younger members. May we each be convincing witnesses as we follow our Saviour and serve Him without reservation.

Our faith was stimulated when we shared in our annual Love-feast. We thank the visiting ministers (Elders Eldon Mallow, Joshua Rice, Jacob Ness, Frank Shaffer, and Bro. Ronald Marks) for their part in the services. Elder Joshua Rice officiated in the evening.

Sister Betty Shelly, Cor.



Don't bolt the door until all the children are in.

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BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE WAY THE SAVIOR WENT

Lord, lead the way the Savior went,
By lane and cell obscure,
And let our treasures still be spent,
Like his, upon the poor.

Like him, thro' scenes of deep distress,
Who bore the world's sad weight,
We, in their gloomy loneliness,
Would seek the desolate.

For thou hast placed us side by side
In this wide world of ill;
And, that thy foll'wers may be tried,
The poor are with us still.

Small are the off'rings we can make;
Yet thou hast taught us, Lord,
If given for the Savior's sake,
They lose not their reward.

- William Crosswell

THANKSGIVING AND GIVING

Thanksgiving Season is here again. For most people it will be a time of vacation, overeating, sports frenzy and in passing a few words will be offered about how thankful we should be. While the pious words about being thankful are being spoken there is often a lifestyle that bespeaks little heart felt thankfulness.

It is perhaps easier in our situation in our well favored land to be thankful. We certainly have been materially blessed far above most places and peoples in this world. Yet, perhaps, because we are so used to so much with so little effort we are not as thankful for what we have as those who have little but who can appreciate it. Their little bit seems like much to them, thus they are willing to offer thanks for it.

Thankfulness must be expressed by more than words. Words can become hollow if the life does not correspond with the words. Thankfulness is expressed by the life. When a person is thankful he will not hoard what he has acquired but will be willing to share it with others. The thankful person realizes what he has been given, he should in turn give unto another.

The example of Jesus should be a motivation for the Christian. Many scriptures tell of His thankfulness. Before He fed the five thousand He offered thanks. After the offering of thanks the two fishes and five loaves became more than enough to feed that multitude.

Jesus' whole ministry was one of giving. He who was equal with God put aside His Heavenly riches to take on the flesh and fashion of mankind. He never had any possessions in His earthly life but even had to be laid in a borrowed grave. This was done to bring

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Spiritual riches to men.

Thankfulness is not limited to material possessions. There should be an even deeper appreciation for the Spiritual blessings that have been showered upon us. Just as thankfulness for material blessings should lead to a sharing of those blessings, so it should be with the Spiritual blessings, also.

This sharing can take many forms. It may be through the worship services of the assembled believers. It can be through the preached Word or through the lessons gleaned from Bible study. It may be the sharing of concerns through prayer. It may be by the witnessing concerning what the Lord has recently done for an individual. It may be through sharing the Plan of Salvation with the lost. It may be through the sharing of material things that awakens a gratitude that will listen more readily to the Word of God.

The giving that follows thanksgiving is the Christian's stewardship of the blessings he has received. Stewardship gives one the responsibility for the right use of another man's possessions. Stewards were given authority to buy and sell their master's goods, hopefully being careful so the master would benefit. There was a time when the steward must prove that he had been faithful in handling his master's possessions.

Christians as God's servants are stewards. They must give an account of how they have used what has been entrusted to them. The good steward does not bury his master's possessions but will at least invest it and perhaps even make terrific gains with what he has been given.

Stewardship often becomes an excuse for stinginess. But stewardship born out of thanksgiving is sharing and giving whether of material or Spiritual possessions. While Spiritual pearls should not be cast before swine and material possessions should not be wasted, there should be a willingness to share. Sharing the Word of God can lead to a soul's salvation or the strengthening of a weak Christian. The sharing of material possessions can mean not only financing the Lord's work on earth, but the shared finances go out into the community to provide a part of its material prosperity.

Thankfulness is the beginning of Christian sharing. There must be a realization of what great Spiritual and material wealth is given to the Christian. Realizing that this legacy is given to be used as a good steward would, the Christian does not hoard it, but uses it judiciously. When there is no thankfulness before the giving, the giving becomes a way of buying good will. Thankfulness without giving becomes empty words, which does not follow the example given by Jesus. He was thankful with giving and His giving was inspired by thankfulness.

Are you thankful? Are you giving from your thankful heart?

SIXTY YEARS AGO

November 15, 1927

THANKS GIVING

B. E. Kesler

In Psalms 105:1-5 David gives us a summary of Christian devotion and worship. In the reverse order they are, "Remember His marvelous works and His judgments; seek His face, rejoice, and glory in His holy name; talk and sing of His wondrous works; and to call on His name and give thanks unto the Lord."

His marvelous works which we should remember may include the work of creation. For it is expressly stated that He is Creator of all things that were created. Some things exist that were not created.

The great flood was marvelous work; nothing like it had ever been known, and it could not have happened by chance, and while those who knew Him not are led by blind superstition or bow down to idols, should we not be thankful that we have such an allpowerful God who "pitieth those that fear him like as a father pitieth his children?" Should we not be thankful for His compassion, and that "He has not dealt with us after the manner of our sins nor rewarded according to our iniquities?"

Since "All we like sheep have gone astray," should we not thank and praise Him that "he laid help upon one that is mighty and able to save to the uttermost those who come to God by Him?"

And should we not be thankful that we are to be judged by Him who looketh on the heart and who judgeth righteously and "whose judgments are true and righteous altogether?"

"Let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord. Seek the Lord while he may be found. Blessed are they that seek Him with the whole heart. They that seek me early shall find me. Rejoice in the Lord all way, and again I say rejoice." How wonderful!

How thankful we should be for such assurances! How we should rejoice for such consolation!

Talk and sing of His wondrous works. Talk about the gift of His Son to redeem fallen men, and His great plan of salvation delivered by Jesus Christ and revealed in His word.

Talk about His wonderful love. Talk about His grace, His willingness and readiness to save all who obey Him. Talk about His commandments to direct men in the way of salvation and Christian living. Sing songs of praise to Him, "speaking to yourselves in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, singing with the spirit and with the understanding." In everything and for every thing give thanks.

"Call ye upon him while he may be found." The day may come when it will be too late to call. "Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved," provided he will obey. "Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? Not everyone that sayeth unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." How thankful salvation and a home in heaven are offered to us on such reasonable terms. "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life and may enter through the gates into the city."

Giving thanks unto the Lord and praising His name "for His goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men." Giving thanks for the preservation of life and for health and strength to go about the affairs and duties of life, and for adversity if His will so directs, and even for sickness if He can be glorified thereby.

Thankful for salvation and for the hope of eternal life, and for the humble privilege to serve him and to labor in His vineyard, to bring the lost and erring to him. Thankful for the church which He established and bought with His own blood as a home for His children and the habitation of His spirit here on earth.

Thankful for kind friends and neighbors to cheer us on life's journey, and to share our trials and sorrows and our joys and gladness as well, and to be living to enjoy the blessings He sends us.

JUST PLAIN THANKFUL

"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name." Psalms 100:4.

"I'm just plain thankful!" "For what?" you ask. I'm thankful that God is, that He is on His throne. I'm thankful that He is merciful, and grants salvation to those who truly desire it. I'm thankful for prayer, and the assurance that God hears me when I pray. It is not that my prayers are so special, but God has promised to hear His own. I'm thankful too for Christian friends, family and the love we have for each other.

I'm just plain thankful that God cares about me and for me, that even when I mess things up, He still loves me. I'm thankful that He can take my mistakes and bring something good out of them. I'm thankful that God can make stepping stones out of stumbling blocks. If He didn't do this for me, my failures in life would overwhelm me.

I'm thankful for God's care in everyday situations. One day, my neighbor, Pat, saw me working outside. She came over and gave

me some much-needed help. I was very weary at the time and felt overwhelmed by life's demands. Her help lightened my burden and lifted my spirits. Before the day was over, another friend, Jim, stopped by, and he too helped me. I could only thank God for sending them to me. I hadn't asked for help, but God saw my need and provided. He didn't wait until I had a really spectacular problem to show His personal concern for me.

I'm just plain thankful for knowing God is able to take an impossible-looking situation and turn it around for good. Even though we are helpless, God is not. Sometimes the scene of life before us reveals only a dead end, but our God can make a way through. He can open doors where none now exist, He can heal when all hope is gone, and best of all, He can turn around a life which is out of control and heading for Eternity without Jesus.

I'm thankful that God has allowed me to witness firsthand the changing of a life out of control. I've seen Him take a heart hardened by sin and crime, and make it a heart tender toward Jesus. I've seen this same heart let go of old habits and reach out for new and better ways of living. My own heart has been blessed because God allowed me to encourage, support, love and pray for one who needed it so much.

In December 1982, I wrote to a man named Jim, then in an Arizona State Prison, in reply to a note he'd sent to our local newspaper. Later letters revealed we had common roots, and we learned we were cousins. I knew very little about Jim's life then, but as time passed, a heart-breaking story was revealed. I want to share some of his story with you so you can be thankful with us for what God has done in his life.

From a childhood filled with abuse, neglect and not being wanted, Jim went into the teen years as a very troubled young man. One thing led to another until at about age seventeen, he committed a crime and was put in prison. There he learned all the wrong things, and later on, tried them all. This of course led to further arrests and imprisonments, which became the pattern for his life. Few people cared about Jim, and he cared very little about himself. It mattered not to him where he was or what he did. He simply survived.

No matter how you look at Jim's life, the stage was set for failure. But God had determined a different course for Jim. In December 1982, He touched Jim with His love and Jim accepted Jesus into his heart. This was the beginning of a new life for Jim. It hasn't been easy to leave the past behind, but Jim desires more and more to follow the Lord. Even while in prison, he felt free because he had been forgiven. Now he's looking forward to another type of freedom.

Jim was paroled May 26, 1987, and returned to his home state of Michigan soon after. On this Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 1987, Jim will be a completely free man for the first time since he became imprisoned over thirty years ago. It will be a very special day of thanksgiving for him, for us his "adopted" family, as well as for all others who love him.

"It is meet that we should make merry and be glad: for this MY brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost and is found." (rephrased from Luke 15:32) When the prodigal son returned home, there was a celebration, with much rejoicing. Jim calls me Sis, we share in a family relationship, and we'll be rejoicing together in the Lord because Jim is now home. We hope you will join us in thanksgiving for what God has done for Jim, and also for what He will yet do. For all this, I'm just plain thankful!

(If you'd like to encourage Jim, send mail to James Carpenter, 42 Willow St., Hillsdale, Michigan 49242 or send it to me.)

Sister Eileen Broadwater
14560-Rd. 15
Pioneer, OH 43554

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Thanksgiving and Communion"

"He took the cup and gave thanks." Matt. 26:27.

Communion is not only a memorial, a partnership and a legacy, it is a time of THANKSGIVING. In communion, we express our joy and gladness for the gifts in Christ. At the Hebrew Passover, certain Psalms were sung called the Hallel. The title is taken from the repeated use at the beginning of some of the psalms of the word "hallelujah"... or Praise the Lord.

Thanksgiving is the expression of joy. This comes from a spirit or release from sin. A heart of gratitude brings thanksgiving and praise. Instead of grumbling and complaining... we are grateful.

Thanksgiving personifies the fruit of the Spirit of joy. We, as Christians are to abound in it. (Col. 2:7) And we often overlook that part at the Lord's Supper. In the solemn rite and ceremony which we rightly attach to the occasion, we overlook the joy and gladness which springs up from obedience to the Lord.

It would even almost seem as if thanksgiving was out of place at the Table. Surely we can be reverent and yet exuberant. When emotion wells up in tears... nevertheless there is still room for the thankful heart. Gratitude is a must when we recall our Lord's sacrifice and our salvation through Him. We read that He endured

the cross for the JOY before Him. (Heb. 12:2) When Jesus fed the crowd in John 6:11, He "gave thanks." When He raised Lazarus from the dead in John 11, He "gave thanks." And even at the Lord's Supper, He "gave thanks." There was always an exuberant upsurge of gratitude in the Master.

The mood of the soul when it is inspired by some high moment of worship is lifted up and there is an exultation of spirit. This is frequently expressed in deep emotion... as by singing. The "hallelujah" of the Hebrew becomes the praises of the Christian. At the Table we gather for a meal and a fellowship. The spirit is not entirely solemn and not totally sad. There is room for gladness and praise. Gratitude for God's goodness and provision has its place. We have fellowship with the One whom angels and all nature acclaim as the Lord of Glory. He has entered our life to redeem and save us. Surely the note of exultation is well suited.

We all have felt the uplift that comes from the Communion service. This is a high and holy experience for us. We are involved in saying "Grace" and having prayers of thanksgiving each day of our life but here we exult in spirit more than usual when we recall to mind the cost of our redemption and the sacrifice of our Lord.

A testimony of praise is given by those who love the Saviour. Nothing can stop the soul from bursting out in glad expressions of thanks. Many times a hymn best expresses our mood when we think of the suffering and death of our Saviour. As we meditate upon the thoughts we sing... we are uplifted to a mood of solemn joy... solemn because of the suffering of Christ, but joyful because of the victory over sin and death. Thus we enter into the meaning of the cross and into a new understanding of our Lord's Supper attitude.

The Communion anticipates the Marriage Supper of the Lamb to come when Christ completes His victorious work. In this light, we see a reason for thanksgiving. We give thanks when we just realize that we will be invited to sit down with Christ.

Thanksgiving is the heart of our experience at the Lord's Table and is at the heart of our everyday walk with Christ. We are the nobodies who have been accepted by the Beloved One. What manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God. All of this inclines our hearts to thanksgiving. Our hymns take on new meaning as we sing the words. The Bible message brings new meaning and light as we enter into this heartwarming experience. "Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift." (II Cor. 9:15)

At this season our hearts are especially attuned to thanksgiving. Let us make this thanksgiving representative of the "thanksgiving" that we should do each day of our Christian experience. Let us

understand how thanksgiving is even a special part of Communion as it is in all aspects of the Christian life.

Brother Len Wertz

OUR THANKFUL FOREPARENTS

Our faithful foreparents proved their thankfulness to the Lord by their words and deeds. We cannot prove ourselves to be thankful to the Lord and not be obedient to the Lord's commandments.

Our foreparents who first came to America experienced many hardships. They did not have the food and clothing to maintain good health. Through the shortage of the necessities of life the first winter they were here many of their number died. Those who remained in the Spring of the year labored and planted seeds. Through their labor and the blessings of sunshine and rain, in the Fall of the year they received a bountiful harvest. Through their thankful hearts a day was proclaimed special for thanksgiving to the Lord.

Are we also aware of the fact thanksgiving to the Lord is a daily duty for us. We hear that in many countries in the world there is a shortage of the necessities of life to maintain good well being, while in our country much good food is wasted and destroyed that should be shared with the needy. Here in this country we are usually blessed with a bountiful harvest. Do we appreciate it? Are we thankful as we should be for it? Are we proving to the Lord we are thankful to Him by being obedient to Him?

The Psalmist David gives many exhortations to be thankful to the Lord. "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."

First, before we can truly give thanks and before God will accept it as such it must come from the heart and not just be an expression from our lips. True thanksgiving to the Lord is an humble submissive spirit realizing our continual dependence upon our Lord who has bountifully blessed us. Christ gave us an example of thankfulness to the Lord. Paul says to continue in prayer and watch in the same with thanksgiving and with thanksgiving let your requests be known unto the Lord.

We are showered with many blessings, the gift of our good minds, shelter and food. When I was in Florida the past winter, the news report was that more than a thousand homeless people were living in the city of Tampa. When cold spells came churches and public buildings were opened for them to get in out of the cold. Yet

we are more comfortably blessed in this country than they are in many other countries in the world.

James says, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." Paul tells us that God is the father of mercy, the originator of mercy and us rich in mercy. We have good reason to be thankful for it. We should be thankful that we have religious liberty and freedom so we can continue to worship the Lord according to His Holy Word.

To be truly the people of God we must be obedient to Him, giving thanks, praise and honor to Him. Thanksgiving Day is a day especially for thanksgiving for the spiritual and temporal blessings we have to enjoy. The Psalmist David exhorts, "Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing." I will praise the name of God with a song and will magnify Him with thanksgiving.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

David reminds us of many things we owe to the Lord.

We have great reason to be thankful for our faithful foreparents who fled from religious persecutions and came to America where they could worship according to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. They felt thankful for this opportunity. Through their thankful hearts a special day was proclaimed for Thanksgiving to the Lord for the many blessings and protection. It has been handed from one generation to another for about three hundred and seventy five years. Praise the Lord that it is yet nationally respected.

We who have lived many years on this earth have seen many changes among professing Christians who prove they are unthankful to the Lord and unholy. Many have departed from the way of our faithful foreparents and the saving gospel of Christ. Wickedness is much worse now than it was many years ago. Our country years ago was called a Christian nation. I do not think we can truly call it that today. These changes that have taken place are contributing to the downfall of our nation. If we are unfaithful and untrue to the Lord we cannot be thankful to Him.

The Apostle Paul said to continue in prayer and watch in the same with thanksgiving, being enriched in everything to all bountifulness which cometh through our thanksgiving to God. For every creature of God is good and nothing to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving. We have many blessings to be thankful for. The

most important is to accept the blessings of God in this life that go on to eternity. Have we accepted them so we can prove ourselves and we can prove to be thankful for them?

John the Revelator says "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." "And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever." "For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters..." "Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen."

Brother J. F. Marks
RD 3 Box 509
York, PA 17402

THE DOCTRINE OF THE DUNKARD BRETHREN CHURCH

1.

"I love thy CHURCH, O God
Is a song we often sing,
Matt. 16:18 This is the CHURCH on earth
To which I want to cling.

2.

Her aim is to obey GOD'S WORD
II John 6 As the BIBLE tells us to do,
Prov. 22:28 We follow the same true teachings
Jude 3 As our foreparents taught us to do.

3

Romans 12:1-2 We believe in a separation
I John 2:16 From worldly lust and pride,
Romans 12:9 We want to bluff old Satan
And cling to JESUS' side.

4.

Titus 1:9 The BIBLE is a book that's true
Without a word of doubt,
II Tim. 2:15 If we study it in faith-believing
We'll learn what it's all about.

5.

I John 4:1 There are many interpretations
As to the meaning of GOD'S WORD,
We, of the DUNKARD BRETHREN are
John 12:26 Simply trying to follow the LORD.

6.

BAPTISM

I Cor. 5:22To become free from the ADAMIC sin
 Acts 22:16Jesus showed us how to do it,
 Matt. 3:16-17We're to be immersed THREE TIMES in water
 In the name of the FATHER, SON and
 HOLY SPIRIT.

7.

 We go under the water a sinner
 II Cor. 5:17-18Coming out, we're a new creature in CHRIST,
 Romans 6:3-4Old sins and old things are passed away
 We now are reconciled to our Maker.

8.

 Thus begins our SPIRITUAL journey
 From our BAPTISM to our DEATH,
 Matt. 6:33We must put first things first
 That is what the GOOD BOOK saith.

9.

I Tim. 4:16We now will consider our DOCTRINE
 We accept it in the BIBLE as given,
 John 15:14GOD wants us to obey HIS commands
 Matt. 16:27Then HE'LL reward us a home in HEAVEN.

- Brother Paul R. Myers

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

The Door Into the Church

J. H. Moore

The entrance into the church, or the kingdom, is by the way of the new birth. One gets into the church, — the family of God on earth, — by being born into it. In this connection the law of adoption must be considered, for God so decreed that "as many as received him, to them gave he the right to become children of God." (John 1:12, R.V.) That is, to "receive the adoption of sons." "And because ye are sons," says Paul in Gal. 4:6, "God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts."

The process of the new birth, and the process of spiritual adoption are measurably the same. The Word of truth, the Spirit, the Father and the Son, along with baptism, and the steps leading up to baptism, figure in both. Baptism, however, is the outward or visible act, while the Spirit baptism is the inward, or invisible act. The penitent believers, who undergo this process, — born of water and of the Spirit, — enter through the door into the church, and

thereby become the adopted sons and daughters of God. It is then that the Spirit can and will bear witness with their spirit that they are the children of God (Rom. 8:16). The whole initiatory process, that admits men and women into the church of Jesus Christ, is included, from first to last, in and along with the new birth. To be born again, is to enter the church. And if, what Jesus said to Nicodemus is true, and it is, then there is no other divinely-appointed way of entering the kingdom of God on earth.

PRAYER

"Not my will but thine be done." I believe the greatest benefit I receive from prayer is how it calms and heals those terrible heartaches. When I feel I am all alone and forsaken, if I go to Him in prayer I feel He is near and will help me over these trying times.

Teach me, Dear Lord, to be kind and forgiving to those, who have not been kind to me. Whatever my lot shall be, in all events, especially, in trying times, when I am almost at wits end, help me, Dear Lord, to put self aside and look to you as you are always near in time of trouble. Thou hast been my guide and hast never forsaken me.

May I be able to hide all my heartaches and the terrible pain I feel. Help me to be the only one who suffers. Help me to use these pains of suffering that come my way to be more like Thee. Help me Lord, at all times, to strive to live close to the pattern you have set for your dear ones to follow. Guard my tongue that I speak no evil of any one but only the things that will build up in the Holy Faith. I realize I have no better friend than You.

If we are united together as dear brothers and sisters, we as a Church will not fall. We will be led to the Rock that is higher than we are, which is Christ Jesus. We must be filled with things from on high. If we are we won't see or find fault with anyone else. Help us, dear Lord, to search our own lives before we speak something that we know will hurt another dear soul.

Create in me a loving disposition and always be willing in my heart to forgive those who say things that are wrong. Let me show to the world that I am a child of the Most High.

If I become angry I cannot say the things I should. I don't even think wisely. Help me to turn to Thee, Dear Lord, the one who can calm my soul. When I come to the Dear Lord for help my emotions are brought under control.

Dear ones, when we are tempted to say or do something not right, we should fall upon our knees. Trouble will cease and tears may fall but angry words won't be spoken. Let us guard our thoughts and only do the things that are pleasing to our Heavenly

Father. He will guide us safely through till He sees fit to call us Home. There we will not be judged by those who claim to love us, but by Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Sister E. M. Alltus

MARRIAGES

HAWBAKER - TRONE

Sister Judith Ann Hawbaker, daughter of J. Kenneth and Dorothy Hawbaker, and Brother Edward Trone, son of Kathleen Smith and the late Alvin Trone were united in holy matrimony on August 15, 1987 at the Dallas Center Dunkard Brethren Church.

Brother Robert Yohe had the meditation after which Brother Ronald Marks performed the marriage ceremony.

Their new home address is: RFD #21 Box 106, Apt. #2, Dover, Pennsylvania 17315.

ZIMMERMAN - NOECKER

Sis. Joy Zimmerman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Levi Zimmerman, Rehersburg, Pennsylvania and Bro. Nathan Noecker, son of Bro. and Sis. Paul Noecker, Sr., Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania were united in marriage September 5, by Bro. David Aungst. Their address is: 941 Port Carbon Street, Apt. 4, Pottsville, Pennsylvania 17901.

OBITUARY

CHESTER L. WELCH

Bro. Chester L. Welch, Keyser, West Virginia died suddenly August 31, 1987 at the age of 65 years. He was the son of the late David A. and Sarah Lee Welch.

Bro. Welch retired from the Allegany Ballistics Laboratory in 1984 after thirty-eight years of employment. He was a veteran of World War II.

He was a member of Ridge Dunkard Brethren Church, where he served as deacon. Surviving are his widow, Sis. Lessie (Likens) Welch; one daughter, Bonnie Sauille, Round Hill, Virginia; one son, Gary L. Welch, Keyser, West Virginia; six grandchildren; one brother, Howard Welch, Keyser, West Virginia and three sisters, Virginia Dawson and Grace Kesner, Keyser, West Virginia and Georgianna Kelly, Baltimore, Maryland.

Services were conducted on September 3 at Rotrucks Funeral Home by Elder Virgil Leatherman and Elder Eugene Kauffman. Interment was in Davis Cemetery at Antioch, West Virginia.

He will be greatly missed. We will just say good-bye here and good morning over there.

NEWS ITEM

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Bethel Congregation enjoyed revival meetings, September 14 through 27 with Elder Fred Pifer, Dallas Center, Iowa bringing to us uplifting, spirit-filled messages. We pray that we may be "doers of the word and not hearers only." There were two precious souls who gave their lives to Christ during these meetings.

We were happy to have the fellowship of Sister Diane and children, Andrea, Jonathan and Emily during these meetings.

May God richly bless Bro. Fred as he ministers for the Lord.

Lovefeast services were held October 24. Messages were brought to us by Brethren: Eugene Kauffman, Kenneth Wilkerson, David Aungst and Scott Bross. Bro. Kauffman officiated in the evening.

Sister Fern Kegerreis, Cor.

THANK YOU

Dear Brethren and Sisters,

I don't have the words to express my appreciation and thanks for all the beautiful cards, notes and flowers that I received for my birthday.

It has been a wonderful blessing to me, and may God bless each and everyone of you. There is a verse of song that is special to me.

When shall love freely flow
Pure as life's river?
When shall sweet friendship glow
Change-less forever?
Where joys celestial thrill,
Where bliss each heart shall fill,
And fears of parting chill -
Never - no never!

In Christian love,
Sister Clara Gunderman



If a man covets, he steals. If a man has murderous hate, he murders. If a man broods dishonest thoughts, he is a thief. If a man harbors sharp and bitter jealousies, envies, hatreds, though he never express them by his tongue, or shape them by his hand, they are there. There are many good-seeming men, who, if all their day's thoughts and feelings were to be developed into acts visible to the eye, would run from themselves.

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BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION

The Church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation, By water and the word:
From heav'n He came and sought her To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.

Elect from ev'ry nation, Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation, One Lord, one Faith, one Birth;
One holy Name she blesses, Partakes one holy food;
And to one hope she presses, With ev'ry grace endued.

Tho' with a scornful wonder Men see her sore opprest,
By schisms rent asunder, By heresies distrest;
Yet saints their watch are keeping, Their cry goes up "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping Shall be the morn of song.

Mid toil and tribulation, And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation Of peace for evermore;
Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious, Shall be the Church at rest.

- Samuel J. Stone

THE GOLDEN CANDLESTICK

The Bible has many symbols, illustrations and parables. These figurative descriptions help us grasp the Spiritual lessons God wishes for us to learn. Having created us He realizes the limitations of our minds. We can not easily perceive the various Spiritual lessons He has for us, therefore He uses these symbols to relate Spiritual truths to the everyday objects and activities we are familiar with.

The ordinances of the Church are easily performed acts that teach Spiritual truths. Feet washing is not designed to literally clean our brother's feet, but is an act that pictures humble service and the cleansing needed to overcome our daily sins. The Lord's Supper is more than a body refreshing meal. It is fellowship shared in a common meal. It also speaks of a Heavenly Meal where Jesus will come forth to serve the redeemed. The Communion is more than a bite of unleavened bread and a sip of juice. These symbols speak of the broken body and spilled blood of Jesus. Communion is a union of believers who collectively and individually have been saved through Jesus Christ's death on the cross.

There are other ordinances and many other symbols throughout the Bible. They are lessons for us. One such picture that is simple yet contains lessons for us is in Revelation 1.

A preliminary part of John's vision concerned a golden, seven branched candlestick. While each branch is referred to as a candlestick, the inference is that there were not seven separate candlesticks but one candlestick with seven branches. This is the traditional "menorah" that was used in the tabernacle and temple of the Jews. The seven branches were arranged so six surrounded

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the middle branch. These six were located so there were three pairs of two. Each pair was at a different height and angle. From above this would appear as a six pointed star.

Each branch was needed to light its area. It gave its light at its particular height and angle. Lacking any one of the branches would have made it incomplete. This candlestick, representing the Seven Churches of Asia, is a lesson concerning congregations. Each congregation is important, for it is needed to light up its area. Even a feeble light is better than no light at all. We would hope that each light would be strong and bright, piercing the darkness and gloom of each locality. Since each branch represents a congregation, we see the several parts making up one complete body. While each congregation has its own organization, officers and officials, it is in conjunction with other congregations that it becomes a total lamp. The Church is composed of its several congregations. Each supplies its part in its place but it is not complete without the others. All the congregations together make up the Church, making a union of light to overcome the darkness.

Our concept of a candlestick would differ from the candlestick pictured here. We think of candles placed in a holder at the top of each branch. But this candlestick was more like a lamp, for at the top of each branch was a small basin that contained oil. This oil provided the fuel for the fire that made the light. This oil is likened throughout the Bible to the Holy Spirit. Without the oil there would be no light. Without the Holy Spirit there would be no reliable witness within each congregation. The Holy Spirit must direct in each congregation or there will be no true Gospel light. If the oil is tainted or gone, there will be no light.

John saw in his vision not only the candlestick but in its midst was Jesus, appearing gloriously. Although in the midst of the well lit candlestick, He outshone the surrounding lights. Jesus must be the center of all the activities of the Church. It is so easy for the Church and its individual congregations to go off on tangents instead of keeping Jesus and Him crucified as the central theme and concern. There can be many activities that are good but do not promote Jesus. There can be much busyness but little of lasting value done if Jesus is not given the preeminent place He deserves in the Church. Causes, campaigns and misplaced concerns can rob the Church of the light she should be shining forth. When the Church's light is dimmed, there is no other light to replace it. Society and government programs and plans do not have the oil of the Holy Spirit nor do they put Christ foremost, so they cannot give the light that only the Church has.

This light is the Gospel given to save men's souls and to prepare them for Heaven. It must shine bright for there is so much

darkness. Each congregation and each individual within the congregation have a part to play so the light will be bright. Is your light fired by the Holy Spirit and centered in Jesus Christ? Let your little light shine.

BURIED IN THE BARNYARD

"A young boy unintentionally shot and killed the family's pet duck. He then tried to cover up the matter by burying the duck in the barnyard. The hired man had seen him and proceeded to make the boy's life miserable by demanding that he do the hired man's work, or he would tell on the boy. This boy was afraid to confess, and began avoiding his father, until the hired man's demands became intolerable. Finally he confessed the mistake and received his father's forgiveness."

The preceding illustration was given at West Fulton Church by the Sunday School superintendent. Many thoughts came to mind as I listened, about the accident, then the cover-up. There was also the boy's distress caused by the hired man, and the alienation from his father. It was like a chain-reaction, all stemming from a moment of thoughtlessness. The boy's big problem was fear. He was afraid to face the matter and his attempts to avoid exposure just caused him more suffering.

Burying the duck didn't eliminate the problem. Covering up our mistakes in one way or another doesn't solve our problems either. We may not have a 'hired man' to accuse us and make us miserable, but we will be alienated from our Father in Heaven. Fellowship with Him is a must, and we'll not be where we should be when we try to bury our mistakes.

Sometimes we bury our 'ducks' by lack of confession. Sometimes it is by justifying our carelessness, or blaming our actions on someone else. Other times it happens because of our ignorance of God's ways. Whatever the reason, it interferes with our spiritual lives — in fellowship, in personal growth, in our testimony. When we have 'ducks' buried here and there, God always knows, people may know, and sometime we'll have to face those issues.

A contractor did some work on a new house. Certain things weren't done correctly and repairs needed to be made. Instead of offering to make the repairs, the contractor complained about a few dollars extra expense. He wanted to take a shortcut to avoid the extra cost, rather than do the rest of the work correctly. In attempting to bury a duck, he just made matters worse. This man is a professing Christian, his life touches many people, but Christian service won't cover up his carelessness on the job.

We cannot draw a line between Christian work, and business or

other everyday activities. Christian living is just what it says — living everyday in every way for Christ. It means making right our wrongs, rather than attempting to hide them. A loud profession of faith in God is worthless unless we live it day by day. We can bury stuff in the barnyard, but eventually we'll have to face it. People may not know whether we've buried a duck or a pig, but they will know something is wrong.

"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed." James 5:16. The boy was healed and made whole again when he confessed to his father. The hired man should have encouraged the boy to make things right in the beginning. He should have supported him, but instead he added to the problem. If we encourage each other to do right and hold one another up in prayer, it will be so much easier for us to come to God (and man if necessary) for forgiveness when we need to.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9. Jesus said to confess our sins, not bury them. When this boy openly admitted his mistake, then he could receive forgiveness from his father. We need to come to God likewise so He can grant us forgiveness and renewal.

In Psalm 51, David prayed for mercy and for cleansing. He was truthful with God about his sins, and asked to be renewed spiritually. He asked also to have joy restored to him. David wanted open communication between himself and God, with nothing 'buried in the barnyard'. If you have something buried, bring it to Jesus so He can forgive you, and restore you to fellowship with Him. Facing what you've done is the only way to peace. Don't bury your ducks!

Sister Eileen Broadwater

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Prayers of Intercession

We might frequently hear a prayer like this... "Lord, bless, Harry, Amen." This individual may have a special need. He might have a temper and need special grace in that area. If he has a temper... pray for his need of patience, for a soft tongue, for a waiting heart.

How much of our praying do we encase in the phrase, "Lord, bless So-and-So. Amen!" We sometimes seem to beat around the bush and the bush might not be burning with the Lord's presence because of vaguely voiced prayer. If we are going to pray effectively as an intercessor, then we are going to know specific and detailed needs of those for whom we are praying. This might

well be the reason why we are instructed to confess to each other... that we might be aware of special needs and that our prayers might key in to those needs.

We have to know each other well and we who are members of relatively small churches should be able to do that. We need to study characteristics, natures, spirits... not as critics... but out of genuine care. We can know the "what" of praying only as we acquaint ourselves with conditions, plans, and conflicts in the lives of others. And there are times we may need to approach our prayer with a pencil and paper if we can't remember the special needs of others. All the length and breadth and depth and height of the love of God is available to us if we only care enough to get specific.

The foundation of interceding is based on several convictions. These are that Jesus knew that "the Father had given all things into His hands," that "He was come from God," and that He "went to God." We would not ask for someone or something unless we believe that all God has is for our appropriation. We have to "believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." We can't ask unless we have assurance that we are a part of His family and that we are asking through Christ's merits alone. Our promise of everlasting life gives us the final motive for caring about others with whom we will spend eternity.

Intercession produces fruit! It is actually a sacrificial experience as we spend time on behalf of others and it brings joy to our lives as we are reassured at the power of God as we see Him working. It takes grace and consecration to spend disciplined hours in prayer for the care of others.

The way to pray is set forth in Eph. 6:18. It is "praying always"... whenever names or needs appear before our thoughts. It is a diligent and disciplined watch behind the closed door of our prayer closet. It is praying whenever we have freedom of heart and mind... even if our hands are in dish water or our feet are pacing the factory floor.

We need a genuine claiming of the promises of the Lord. This will come from living in the Spirit with Spirit-placed burdens.

Prayer is to be accompanied by "watching" and recognizing the fact that Satan will attempt to lead you into careless and indifferent prayer attitudes. He speaks to you of futile results, and makes you question the time spent. He keeps you busy and makes you put prayer needs second in priority.

Prayer must be "with perseverance." Don't neglect to continue to plead, knock, and boldly beseech about the needs you pray for.

The Lord's Prayer in John 17 gives us some words which we can voice as ours for intercessory prayer. These include petitions that

Jesus will be glorified through the answer, that the Word will be kept by it, that it will keep them in Him, that they will experience joy, that they will be kept from evil and that they will be yielded vessels and receptive to God's working in their lives.

Pray in intercession for the church... that it might function in heavenly places above circumstances, defeats, selves, sins, cultures, customs and traditions. Pray that the confusing happenings of our age might not affect the church but that it will grow in the grace and knowledge of God's truth.

An additional intercessory prayer guide is found in the Book of Acts. If you were to go through and underline each mention of prayer there and then notice that immediate results followed each prayer, your faith would be greatly increased. This, too, gives us a guide to pray for similar things concerning other believers and the church. It will place the difficult problems of life on the shoulders of the One who can adequately and perfectly handle them.

If we increase our prayers of intercession, our church and other people will be blessed richly and will receive the victory. In times of trial, conflict, captivity, weakness and vulnerability... Jesus will give grace. In times of a need for understanding and forgiveness, Jesus will be faithfully present. In times of great tragedy, heartache and upheaval, Jesus will bring peace. Let us make intercession for the saints according to the will of God from our hearts. Let there be miracles!

Brother Len Wertz

THE MYSTERY AND REALITY OF PRAYER

Matthew 6:7-8, "But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him."

Matthew 7:7-8, "Ask, and it shall be given you, seek and ye shall find, knock, and it shall be opened unto you: for everyone that asketh receiveth: and he that seeketh findeth: and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

Many times in this life we find that we can give a good theological answer to certain questions without "really giving an answer." This was brought to my mind some time ago when my daughter asked me why God made man. She then followed this question with a harder one. If God wanted to make mankind, why didn't He just make us in Heaven instead of making us go through all the problems we have on earth? For a thirteen year old girl I felt she was asking questions that those more mature and wise in the faith would have a hard time answering. When I say this keep in mind

my opening statement.

We have come to the conclusion that God does not desire for us to fully understand all of the wondrous truths of scripture, but to accept these truths and apply them to our lives. One of the areas that contains much mystery is the area of prayer. As our opening verse teaches, the Father already knows all of our needs before we ask him. The question could then very well be asked, "Then what is the use of praying?" Not only does God know all of our needs but according to Philippians 4:19, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Again we have to ask if God knows all of our needs and will then supply them, why pray? It is our opinion that this question cannot be fully answered, although as we stated there are theological answers that can be given.

There is at least one other mystery that comes to mind in the area of prayer. Why does it seem like brothers and sisters agreeing in prayer have "more power" than a single individual lifting his voice to Heaven? We do not wish to get into the area of "special gifts" that are claimed by certain individuals except to say this is another area of mystery and great controversy in the modern earthly church.

Before we discuss the reality of prayer, we wish to express our concern that some individuals seem to think that God is some kind of a puppet that has to "act when we pull the strings" by prayer. Jesus Christ did promise us in Matthew 21:22, "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." We, personally, do not believe Jesus Christ was giving us a "blank check" as some teach. Rather, we are convinced that we must understand what Jesus meant by "believing." It is our understanding that the answer is given in I John 5:14, "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us." If we truly believe we will be willing to accept His answer and not what we desire or think best. James 4:3 reminds us that we can pray wrongly, "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts."

But in spite of the fact that God knows our needs and we have to accept what He sees as best for us, we are still commanded in many portions of scripture, including our second verse, to ask Him in prayer. We can not fully comprehend all that is involved, and we will not take the time to go into the various theological understandings, but we can personally testify that God does answer prayer! We were once again thrilled to hear the testimony of Bro. Paul Hartz, who, the doctors told, would spend the better part of his life in a wheel chair and probably die at an early age. But he has passed the age given and is preaching and walking without any aid.

We too have experienced the healing touch of God on our life. Why God chooses to heal some and not others is not for us to debate. We just praise Him for His goodness and love. There are those who say that if God still heals today we should go into the hospitals and heal all the sick therein. First of all, we believe God's healing is reserved for His own born again children. In the second place, Jesus Christ did not heal every sick person He came into contact with, as some suggest. In John 5:3 we find that Christ came into contact with "a great multitude of impotent folk." Yet He chose to heal only ONE of these. The record says that Jesus went to him, not vice versa. We will leave the "why?" in the wisdom of almighty God. But this proves to us that God does not always choose to heal everyone. On the other hand, we believe James 5 is for us today.

If you are unsaved the greatest answer to prayer is the salvation of the soul. In fact, this is the only prayer God has promised to answer for you. Confess that you are a poor lost sinner and the blood of Jesus Christ will cleanse you from sin. We are also commanded to be baptized. If you are a child of God seek Him in prayer on a daily basis. Do not wait for an emergency. But when tragedy does strike be assured that our prayers are always answered. Ask, seek, and knock. If the answer is not given not it will be in eternity. As we join our hearts in prayer we are truly a communion of Saints and our Saviour, Jesus Christ, joins us along with the Holy Spirit. Our Heavenly Father smiles His approval and thus we are truly "one with the Holy trinity."

God answers prayer in the morning,

God answers prayer at noon,

God answers prayer in the evening,

So keep your heart in tune.

So says the hymn writer. We would add our, "Hallelujah, Praise the Lord."

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THE DOCTRINE OF THE DUNKARD BRETHREN CHURCH

NON-CONFORMITY

10.

Romans 12:1-2 . . . When we unite with GOD'S people
There are certain things we must do,
We're not to be conformed to this world
We now have a mind that's renewed.

11.

Romans 6:1-6 We have denounced SATAN and SIN
And all the worldly lusts and strife,
We now have our CHRIST to obey
As we walk in newness of life.

12.

Romans 8:8-9 We now should be SPIRITUALLY minded
And obey the WORDS of our LORD,
We are to be led by HIS SPIRIT
And obey, all our life, GOD'S WORD.

13.

I Peter 4:2-5 When CHRISTIANS don't go where the world goes
The world is made to wonder "Why not",
They think it strange we don't go
To the same excess of riot.

14.

John 15:18-19 ... Picture shoes, card parties and dances
Beer joints, gambling dens and more,
I John 3:13 Are places a CHRISTIAN stays away from
If he hopes to gain HEAVEN'S shore.

15.

I John 2:15 If we love these things of the world
The love of the FATHER is not in us,
Matt. 24:41 On that awful great judgment day
HE'LL say, "Depart from me, you must."

- Brother Paul R. Myers

MARVEL NOT, MY BRETHREN, IF THE WORLD HATE YOU

Jesus told His disciples that the world hated Him before it hated them. (John 15:18) The Apostle John tells us in I John 3:13 not to be surprised if the world hates us. We have had this scripture become very real to us in many instances, especially in recent years. God always knows what is best for us, even when we do not. The persecution of the world is not pleasant, but it is needful for many reasons.

First, it establishes whether or not we are truly on the Lord's side. It determines our first love. The person who has not fully sold out to God will return to the world when persecution arrives upon the scene. God knows this. Read in the Book of Job about the struggle between good and evil. Job was tested and found faithful. There are many who as youth are pressured into "joining church." But for many this only means standing up after an invitation to do

so in a meeting. Little else happens. There is no genuine conversion, henceforth when trouble comes, the soul of the individual soon reverts to its previous condition. There are millions of people in our country today who consider themselves to be Christians but have never been converted. A siege of persecution, such as happened in Russia when the communists took over in 1917, would soon divide the sheep from the goats. It costs something to be a Christian in Russia today.

Secondly, persecution is needful because it strengthens our faith in God. Job was drawn closer to God in his misery because he realized he could not hang onto the earthly things that he had before. Many Christians acquire riches and finery over the years and gradually substitute the trust, that they had in God, to those things. When the rich young ruler asked Jesus, "What lack I yet?", Jesus told him to give his riches to the poor. He went away sorrowful because he loved his riches more than he loved Jesus. Christians must realize that they have no continuing city. They are only passing through this veil of tears. They are going to a better place. Many live as if they plan on staying forever. They know nothing of sharing their possessions with those in greater need. The widow who gave the two mites gave her all, not just of her abundance. Those who sail the sea in giant luxury liners can hide in their cabin and partake of the finest and the best there is. When one's floating in a tiny rubber raft with only a few others, one must act differently towards them: one must be a brother towards them and they to you. We can choose to live like the world and be selfish and greedy as they are, or we can be like Jesus, our example, who had nothing when He came into the world and had nothing when He left. He went about doing good.

We read in Matthew 13 the parable of the sower. We find that when seed is sown among thorns, the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke out the Word and it becomes unfruitful. Persecution will either draw us closer to the Lord or cause us to revert to the world.

Thirdly, persecution is necessary because it keeps the sincere soul from slipping back into the world. With persecution we are constantly reminded of the decision we made for God and how we must continue daily in Him. When the world hates us it shows us that we do not belong in that sphere any more, even though we still live here. Believe it or not, the world can tell if you are a Christian or not by how much you gravitate toward them. I Peter 4:4 says they think it strange that you run not with them to the same excess of riot, SPEAKING EVIL OF YOU. This is because we judge their evil deeds when we do not participate in them. They would love it if we joined with them, because it would show them that there is

nothing to our salvation. It is important that you as a Christian never give the world an opportunity to reach that conclusion.

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SIXTY YEARS AGO

December 1, 1927

ONE HUNDRED PER CENT CHRISTIAN

J. F. Britton

How wonderful! yet true; we find in the history and biography of all the great men and women of the Bible that they all passed through some excruciating ordeal or crucible, in which they were thoroughly tested and found to be one hundred per cent true and genuine in faith and loyalty to their God. Daniel, Shadrach, Mechach and Abednego, for their faith and fidelity to their God were thoroughly tested out through a severe trial and found to be one hundred per cent true to their God. Abraham and Job passed through the fiery crucible and were found to be one hundred per cent genuine in both principle and character. Somehow it seems to be God's way of testing and purifying men for his use. "Gethsemane" was a trial through which Jesus passed and was found to be one hundred per cent genuine in his Messiahship.

In that wonderful vision that John had on the Isle of Patmos, when it seemed that God pulled the curtain back that John could see all the Redeemed of God coming up to receive their retributions. "After this I beheld, and lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands: and cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the Angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshiped God, saying amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever, Amen. And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, what are these which are arrayed in white robes? And whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest, and he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." (Rev. 7:9-14) Thus we see this great host of the faithful followers of Christ coming out of the fiery trials of great sufferings and found worthy to stand before

the Lamb, with palms of victory in their hands.

No wonder David said with an exclamation, "Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart." (Ps. 15:1-2) And in Ps. 24 we read, "Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart: who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully." (Ps. 24:3-4) These texts of Scripture denote and demand one hundred per cent of not only a pure heart, but also a sterling and unimpeachable life and character.

No wonder Paul wrote saying, "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." (I Cor. 6:19-20)

So God has ordained, that his people must be purified and cleansed of all moral and Spiritual pollutions that disqualify our bodies, of the Holy Spirit, from having its free course, both to do and to will of his good pleasure in us." It is wonderful how God works in mysterious ways, his wonders to perform.

We read and hear so much talk of late of the church passing through a great transition, and that we must adjust ourselves to the general trend of modern ideas. But God changes not. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." (Matt. 24:35) "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Isa. 55:9) And as God is from everlasting to everlasting the same unchangeable Being in whom there is no variableness, nor shadow of turning, the same yesterday, today and forever. Therefore his word changes not.

Hence it occurs to the writer that it is today as it was in the days of Zechariah, "And it shall come to pass that in all the land, saith the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein, And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The Lord is my God." (Zech. 13:8-9) This Scripture has under consideration a reformed people purified and tried through the Refiner's fire, that they may be one hundred per cent Christian. "Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver: I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction." (Isa. 48:10)

Hence it is perfection and holiness that our Lord wants in his people, "That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing: but that it shall be whole

and without blemish." (Eph. 5:27) For we have not been redeemed with silver and gold, but with the fiery trials and the atoning blood of Jesus Christ.

And too, we should appreciate the cruel mockery and suffering of the crown of thorns that pierced his brow, till his blood ran down his face, that we might wear a crown of glory. And think of the misery of those nails driven through his hands and feet and the awful spear that was thrust into his side, that opened that atoning fountain for sin and all uncleanness.

This was God's way and there is no other way but his way. For Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 15:6) "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under Heaven given among men, whereby we might be saved." (Acts 4:12)

These Scriptures along with many others should awaken and strengthen our faith in our God, and inspire loving obedience and loyalty to "Him, who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." (Titus 2:14) And whereby render us one hundred per cent Christians.

FOOD

In Luke 11:11 we read; "If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?" I am sure each of us would give our children the best we have. We, as parents, are very concerned about the ones we bring into this world. Let us feed them food that will nourish them. Let us guide them in the way of right and bring them up in the way of the Lord.

Let us correct them when they do things that are not right. Sometimes we must punish them, but it is for their good. The Bible says that to spare the rod is to ruin the child. Let us get them back on the strait and narrow way.

We know bread and food are needed but they also need manna from Heaven, spiritual food. Let us not lay up money for our children, but let us set an example before them so they will become workers in Christ's vineyard. When we put money away for the future we are only giving them things for this life, but what we give to them spiritually is what counts in this life and the life hereafter.

Christ commanded us to love the Lord with all our hearts. Teach your dear ones to love Christ and also love everybody. There are so many children on our streets today who do not know what love is. Many have never been inside of a Church. Many are taught to worship idols.

Oh, how far has this world wandered away from God and His precious Word? Oh, how they need food from Heaven to nourish them and give them strength for the trials of every passing day. Will there be those tomorrow who will be able to find food and not a stone?

In our homes the Spiritual leader should be the father. Oh, fathers don't neglect your responsibility. You cannot cast it off. The Lord requires it of you to instruct them.

Do our children ever ask about our Church and why do we practice a certain thing? Are we ready to tell them or do we turn them away? I think parents should tell their children why they go to Church and why they do the things they do in the Church. Prepare the dear ones so they will be ready when called to serve Jesus. Let us give them pure food so they will grow in the faith.

A spiritual father in the Church is one whose duty is to teach and instruct those dear ones of whom some are babies in Christ. Let us not neglect the duty the Lord has laid upon us. Feed them with the Word of God, which is pure food for their souls.

Some times children want to run their parents. The Good Book does not teach that. We are told to honor our parents. We are to obey our parents. Children are you doing that today?

Let us each so live it will be well for us when life here has come to an end.

Sister E. M. Alltus



In general, we may observe that as no good is done, or spoken, or thought by any man without the assistance of God working together in and with those that believe in Him, so there is no evil done, or spoken, or thought without the assistance of the Devil, who works with energy in evil men. Thus he entered into Judas, confirming him in the design of betraying his Master. Thus he put it into the heart of Ananias and Sapphira to lie unto the Holy Ghost. And, in like manner, he has a share in all the actions, and words, and designs of evil men. As the children of God are workers together with God in every good thought, or word, or action, so the children of the Devil are workers together with him in every evil thought, or word, or work.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR DECEMBER 1987

December 6 - Trials of Paul - II Cor. 11:1-33.

1. Do our trials come from God or only allowed by Him? Job 1 and 2.
2. What are the benefits of suffering?

December 13 - My Grace is Sufficient - II Cor. 12:1-21.

1. What is grace?
2. Are we spiritually mature enough to pleasure in infirmities, reproaches, persecutions, and so forth? Verse 10.

December 20 - The Birth of Christ - Matthew 2:1-23.

1. Was there significance in the type of gifts the wise men gave to Christ?
2. Is the TRUE message of Christmas for us one of giving or receiving?

December 27 - Living by the Power of God - II Cor. 13:1-14.

1. How important is church discipline?
2. How do we appropriate the power of God in our lives?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR DECEMBER 1987

December 6 - Stephen's Witness - Acts 6.

1. What was the secret of Stephen's dynamic witness?
2. If we are spiritually dynamic today, will we be appreciated and understood by society?

December 13 - Conversion of Saul - Acts 9:1-20.

1. What is it to be converted?
2. Is a conversion different from a full surrender?

December 20 - Birth of Christ - Is. 9:6-7, Micah 5:1-4, Matt. 1:18-25, Is. 7:13-14.

1. Why is the divinity of Christ so important to us?
2. God's gift to us was Jesus. What will our gift be in return?

December 27 - Diligence - II Peter 1:3-15.

1. Can we be diligent in the wrong things?
2. In what areas are we to be diligent? I Cor. 15:58

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

SILENT NIGHT

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and Child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake, at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia.
Christ, the Savior is born,
Christ, the Savior is born!

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

- Josef Mohr

THE IMPORTANCE OF CHRISTMAS

Christmas is celebrated around the world. It is celebrated on different dates and with various customs. The celebration often becomes more important than the reason for the celebration.

Christmas is usually celebrated in our country by gift-giving, partying, drunkenness and severe financial distress. Many of the activities associated with this celebration are designed to make a commercial success of the holiday and detract from the simplicity of Christ. There is more attention lavished on Santa Claus, Christmas trees, feasting and partying than on Christ.

Today's observance of Christmas creates little interest in the true reasons for Christmas. Often the stable scene has become a sentimental scene devoid of the smells and discomforts of the stable. This playacting often gives an inaccurate account of the events. When plays are used to depict a holy scene, then the theater's representation of less holy scenes might not seem so bad so the theater and television become acceptable means of amusement.

To grasp the importance of Christmas there is a need to see beyond the sentimental stable scene. The stable may represent the denial of mankind at His coming. He was rejected by those who should have gladly received Him. There should have been a place in the inn but there wasn't, neither was there a place in the hearts of men for Him.

The announcement of His birth to the shepherds showed that it was more likely to be the common, lowly shepherds who would receive the news and rejoice than would the religious leaders of the day. The star that appeared to the Wise Men was a supernatural

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sign to the great. But it was the great who were at a distance, who responded. The great in Jerusalem did not know until the Wise Men came. This message to those afar off proclaimed that His coming was not only for the nearby Jews but also for those of every race.

The means of His Coming is important. Only by being virgin born could He meet the qualifications for being the sinless Saviour. If He had been born by ordinary means He would have inherited the common sins of mankind. Being virgin born He was born without sin. He lived a perfect life so when He came to Calvary He was qualified as the spotless, unblemished sacrificial Lamb.

His birth was necessary so He could give Himself as the perfect ransom on the cross. There is no particular message of peace in the Christmas scene unless it is perceived in the sacrifice that He made many years later to bring peace between God and man. Without His birth He could not give Himself as the sacrifice which would allow all men, who would choose to, to make their Spiritual peace with God. There is no other peace possible between perfect God and sinful man. It is only through men's acceptance of Christ's sacrificial work that they can be at peace with God. Until men are at peace with God they do not have the ability to be at peace with one another. A sentimental stable scene cannot give that peace. A hard, cold, suffering scene on Calvary, a burial in a borrowed tomb and a miraculous resurrection were all necessary to make the way of peace.

Christmas is important for it conveys the love of God. The love of God was demonstrated to men by the willingness of Jesus to leave the beauties and bliss of Heaven to be born as a babe. He not only humbled Himself to become man but took on Himself the form of weakest man — a babe. Human reasoning would have let all in the world perish but Godly Grace would not allow men to perish although they deserved to. He was willing to humble Himself, be weak and poor although He was God.

The stable scene may be but a sentimental scene but its true importance is understood only when the stable is set near the cross. Without Calvary, Christmas would have no meaning.

Christmas is important because nothing could be more important than that which affects our soul's salvation. Christmas is a part of the plan of salvation because it was necessary that our Saviour be virgin born.

Christmas is important not because of gift-giving, parties, feasting or Santa Claus but because of the best and richest Gift ever given to men, Jesus Christ.

SIXTY YEARS AGO

December 15, 1927

THAT FIRST CHRISTMAS MORNING

B. E. Kesler

That one morning of all mornings, the one morning that left its impress on the affairs of men, that one morning that caused the nations to take notice, that called a halt to the eyeles of time to make adjustments, the one morning that revised, and revises the calendars by which time is measured, the one morning that brought awe and astonishment and consternation to the rulers, both civic and religious, the one morning that brought joy and gladness to men and glory to God, that morning, we celebrate today as the one great event of the passing years.

Of all the messages borne to earth by angelic hosts, by prophet, seraph or seraphim, the message that came to the humble Judean shepherds on that eventful morning, none was ever so important, or meant so much to mankind, or was fraught with such momentous consequences as the "Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy" which greeted the ears of those awestricken, and fearful men on that first Christmas morning.

"Be not afraid" said the angel, "for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people." To all people. How wonderful! Not only to "me and my wife, my son John and his wife, us four and no more," but to all people, in every age, in every country, and in every clime.

Good tidings to the shepherds, to the Jews, to the Gentiles, to the bond and to the free, to the Whites and the Blacks, the rich and the poor alike. "For there is no respect of persons with God." The soul of the beggar by the way, the Hottentots of Africa, the Indian on the plains, the Patagonians of the South, the Esquimaux of the North are equally precious in His sight with those of the more civilized and enlightened of the most pregressive nations on the globe. For "of one blood" have all peoples been created. And which of all is most important in His sight, is not for us to say. True, after our manner of judging there would perhaps, be discrimination and bias, for we "look on the outward appearance," but with Him who "looketh on the heart" and "judgeth righteously," the distinctions because of social, moral, civic or intellectual standing, prestige, or lineal descent, or ancestral claims are not recognized, and "cut no figure."

And what are those "good tidings?" Why, "unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." And why should this be "good tidings?" Well, we say, "because the

world needed a Savior." But did they know it? feel it? want it? Does the world today need Him? want Him? Has the world decided yet "what it will do with Jesus?" Has it yet realized what that first Christmas morning meant to us that this was God's way of "laying help upon one that is mighty and able to save to the uttermost?"

We are told "when the fullness of the time had come God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." Then to receive the adoption of sons, or become the children of God, a Redeemer was necessary. This Redeemer was the outgrowth of that first Christmas morning. The babe born that morning and laid in a manger was a child of prophecy, king of the Jews, and the Redeemer of mankind from the curse of the law, and until this was done, mankind was doomed to eternal death.

Not only so, but that first Christmas morning brought us a Savior. It was said to Him before He was born, "Thou shalt call his name Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins." And John the Baptist pointed Him out as the "Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world." And Paul says, "There is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved." And all this because of that first Christmas morning.

In the birth of the babe of Bethlehem, God verified the truth of His prophets. "The scepter shall not depart from Judah nor a lawgiver from between his feet until Shiloh come," said Moses. And "a prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you from among your brethren like unto me," was God's promise through Moses. Isaiah is more pointed. He looks down the vista of time and in prophetic vision sees that first Christmas morning and assures us, "a child is born, unto us a Son is given," and it happened on that first Christmas morning, the morning we now celebrate as the anniversary of that child, our blessed Lord.

THE DENIAL

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isa. 9:6.

This was not to be an ordinary child. Luke 2:11 says this child is a Savior, Christ the Lord. Verse 40 says the grace of God was upon Him. Matthew 1:23 says this child would be called Emmanuel, meaning "God with us." Even though the Bible says otherwise, people deny the divinity of Jesus. They drag Him down to the level of man, and say He is like us. Or they say we can be equal with

Jesus if we try hard enough. Jesus is not held up as one to be worshipped, but often only the subject of a sentimental story of a babe in a manger.

We don't know for sure when Jesus was born, but we do know He was born! He may have been born in the spring instead of December, but whenever it may have been, what He is (our Savior!) and where He came from (Heaven) is far more important than the day. It is important to know why He was born (to redeem us), and who He is (God's Son). If we concern ourselves too much with the time and place, we may miss out on the real reason Jesus came to this earth.

Jesus' birth was not His beginning anymore than His death on the Cross was His end. Jesus always was, He is now and always will be. His earthly life was only an interruption in His heavenly existence. It was not His beginning. Life for us begins at conception, but for Jesus, His birth to earthly parents was merely a new form of existence. Jesus took on the form of man for our benefit, so He could complete the plan of salvation and reconcile us to our Heavenly Father.

To deny that Jesus is God's only Son is also to deny Him as Savior. If Jesus were not divine, He could not save anyone, for a man cannot redeem another man. When people deny Christ as God's Son and our Savior, they are trying to get rid of a responsibility. Recognizing that we have a Savior means we have a need for, and a responsibility to, this Savior. If He can be denied and explained away, the need and responsibility can be explained away also. However, someday we will face this same Savior, and all the explanations in the world will not relieve us of our guilt.

At this time of year, people do alot of celebrating. They may say they are celebrating the birth of Christ, but the things they do dishonor Him. Honoring Jesus with our lips means nothing if we deny Him by the way we live. If Jesus is in our hearts, we'll do our best to honor Him and celebrate His birth, death and resurrection all year long. Our values will demonstrate that Jesus is more important to us than just a sentimental celebration.

"Whosoever shall deny me before man, him will I also deny before my Father which is in Heaven." Matt. 10:33. If we want Jesus to recognize us, we must acknowledge Him right here. From His virgin birth to the Cross to the Resurrection and Ascension, we must believe it all, and confess it all. To deny any part is to deny Jesus. To deny Jesus is to bring condemnation upon ourselves, but confessing Jesus brings us into favor with God.

In your personal life, are you confessing Christ or denying Him? Are His birth and life just parts of history to you, or are they a reality

to you? Jesus was born for us, He lived and died for us — and He is now in Heaven interceding for us. To deny Him is to deny the greatest need we have, that of a Savior. Before you say you don't need Jesus, you'd better think it over. If you deny Him now, He will deny you for all Eternity!

"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." Matt. 16:24. When we acknowledge Jesus, and accept Him for Who He really is, this is the first step in self-denial. Self interferes with our relationship with Jesus. As long as self is on the throne in our lives, Jesus can't be in His rightful place. Self tells us we don't need Him, but we all do! As you think about Jesus this month, determine in your heart to put Him first. Deny yourself, not Jesus.

Sister Eileen Broadwater

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Come, Worship the King"

The coming of Jesus Christ into this world has influenced men more than anything else that has happened in the history of mankind. The world has never been the same... datelines are divided by His advent... and we number our years from ONE MAN. He was worshiped by humble shepherds and later by wise men from the East. And even today, the poor and humble find true riches in Him and the high and mighty find greater blessings in Him than in all of the possessions and prominence of the world.

Wise men came from the East seeking the new born King, we are taught in Matthew 2. WISE MEN STILL COME TO CHRIST! These men might well have been astronomers from Persia. They might have known something about Bible prophecy concerning Christ's birth. Or is it possible that God in His own mysterious way revealed this secret to them.

Many fantastic stories have been passed down concerning them. The song "We Three Kings of Orient Are" has probably led to many misconceptions about these men. Artists have used their imaginations to draw them. They have even been named... Gaspar, Melchior and Belthazar. Truth and fiction, as usual, have gotten mixed together. We don't really know their names or how many there were but we do know they were wise... because they came to Jesus.

These men were led by a star... the light of heaven. We too are led by a Light from Heaven. He is that Saviour that was worshipped by the wise men. If we follow the Light as diligently as they did, we will find the One to worship.

Why didn't the religious people of that day find Jesus and worship Him? Could it be that they only had the scripture in their head but had no grace in their heart? They had head knowledge without heart wisdom. They never responded to the truths they had learned. How well this fits many people around us today. Faithfulness is always rewarded and it was so here. A journey that took many days with dangers all along the way was rewarded by finding Jesus. The cost was not too great.

The wise men bowed down and worshipped Jesus and gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. These gifts teach us important concepts in this lesson.

Gold symbolizes our worldly possessions and these make a proper tribute for the King. Because Jesus is Lord, we are required to worship Him with our material blessings as well as with our gifts of love and service. Throughout the Bible, people who accepted Jesus immediately desired to give Him something. We give because we love Him. It is a true saying that you can give without loving but you can't love without giving! The "wise men" of today delight in honoring Christ with their monetary gifts.

Frankincense, the second gift brought by the wise men, is an expensive and fragrant perfume. It represents our inner thoughts and emotions. It says... every part of me bows before you, Lord. Incense illustrates prayer and praise due only to God. It acknowledges Christ's deity.

Finally, the gift of myrrh was given. This was a bitter spice which was used for embalming. It gives us a picture of suffering. It might illustrate that these wise men had been taught by God that Christ would be born to die for lost sinners... thus they worshipped Him. As we worship Jesus and acknowledge Him as our Saviour, we can never forget the fact that He died for us... and we worship Him.

Again, after the wise men worshipped Jesus, God warned them not to return in the same way they had come, via the sinful Herod, but to go a new and safer way. Even so today, after we meet Jesus we will take another way. We walk on the King's Highway of a higher and better life.

Even as the wise men went the way of safety, Herod was planning evil things to protect his dominion. This worshipped infant Jesus was now in danger of being slaughtered along with all of the other baby boys under two years of age in the area. This first baby of Joseph and Mary must surely have been adored by them and yet trouble would not leave Him until He at last would be crucified on a cross at Calvary. He is worthy to be worshipped at this beautiful season and each day of our lives. His life of agony was lived that we might have an eternal life of peace. And, just as the wise men found Jesus and bowed before Him and gave Him the best they

had... so we must give Him our best after we have found Him.

An old LEGEND shares a story of the wise men who were following the star to Bethlehem. They were said to have come to a house of a certain woman and said to her, "Come with us, we have seen His star in the east and we are going to worship Him." "Oh," she said, "I would just love to come with you. I have heard that He would come one day and I have been looking forward to it. But I can't come now. I have to get many things done at the house before I can go... then I will follow you and find Him." But when her work was done the wise men were out of sight and the star shone no more in the heavens and she was never to see Jesus. Sad! Too busy with earthly things to worship the King. Take time to bow before the Master. The time for worship is now.

Brother Len Wertz

CHRIST'S BIRTH

We commemorate Christ's birth

At this special time of year...

Singing praises to His name...

Hoping all on earth will hear...

That He was God's only Son...

Yet was born of a virgin...

And was laid in a manger

Since no room was in the inn.

He came to teach men wisdom...

And wise men still seek His way

So their souls may be redeemed

By their Saviour some glad day.

- Sister Irene Stout

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Wabash, IN 46992

TRUE APPRECIATION AND COMMEMORATION OF CHRIST OUR SAVIOUR

We are again approaching the time of the year we commemorate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Will we commemorate it to the honour and glory of Him, or engage in the foolishness of this world that usually takes place at this time of the year?

It may be well for us to meditate on His coming as the Prince of Peace. It is a great blessing for us. He made it possible for us to live in a world of strife and carnal warfare and to live at peace with

all men. He said, "My peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you." Earthly peace is not durable and meets with sudden destruction. The peace that Christ brought from Heaven leads to eternal peace. Christians do not take part in the carnal strife of this sinful and wicked world.

Jesus and true Christians are still the light of the world. What a grand thought that the angel on that memorable night said unto the shepherds, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." Jesus through the power of God can remove all our fears if we accept His saving Gospel.

The comforting words of the Heavenly Father to Abram were, "I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward." His words, through Moses, to the Israelites were, "Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will shew to you today: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace." We also have the words, "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." These promises have been a help for many before the coming of our Saviour.

Never before this generation was there a time when so many things were happening that strike fear in the hearts of mankind as it is today. As we think of these things we should rejoice that God has intervened for us in this dispensation.

It was the Christ who was born in Bethlehem who made the atonement for our sins. It is through Him that we have His saving Gospel which is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth. He was called, "wonderful, Counsellor." His teaching powers and abilities were so far above others that there has been no other person on earth who could live in a manner to be compared with the high standard of life He lived. He was capable of giving advice and instructions that could be depended upon for time and eternity. He sympathized with the poor and helpless.

We have great reason to commemorate the birth of our Saviour and to honour this babe of Bethlehem who has become Lord of Lords and King of Kings to all generations of men and the Prince of Peace. He said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." He said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you..." The peace that passeth understanding dwells continually within to calm the soul in the severest hardships. The peace that Jesus gave was a freedom from anxiety and disturbance. He is the eternal sovereign of peace who shall usher in perpetual peace.

He brought good tidings to all the earth. He saved us and called

us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to His own purpose and grace. This was made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. He has abolished death and brought life and light through the Gospel to all who accept Him. He said, "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." "And, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." That will be His second coming.

We have many precious promises. Let us lay hold on them in faith believing and surrender our lives wholly unto Him.

God has never forsaken His people in times of trouble and danger and never will. Through Him we can find rest for our souls.

With these precious promises may we celebrate with rejoicing the birth of our precious Saviour who gave Himself for us that we might be heirs of God and joint heirs with Him in the glorious Eternal World.

Brother J. F. Marks
RD 3 Box 509
York, PA 17402

GIVING AND RECEIVING

If we truly believe in giving, we must have the love of God in our hearts. We have that desire to give because of the Gift that He has given us. His love is flowing in our hearts, and we have a desire to help lighten someone else's load.

We find in this day so many who are all for self and never care to share with those in need. My blessed Saviour loves a cheerful giver. He gave us the most precious gift one could give. He gave His life on that rugged cross to set us free. Are we willing to accept that gift?

There are people today who think that when in need we should run and help them. Many a time we don't even get a thank you because they feel we should give because we are followers of the Lord Jesus. Dear ones, let us try to help those in need to be able to see a better life ahead.

There are so many poor people around us today who are mis-managing their budgets. There are those who don't know how to buy for their family. They have plenty of money but spend it on things that don't help. If we find a poor family let us give food instead of money, so the children can be fed. The poor we will have with us always. Let us seek to brighten their lives by telling them of our loving Saviour who died for them. Offer to get them to Church if they are willing to come and have no way, showing to them a

better life ahead. Let us pray daily for those who are discouraged, those who have lost loved ones and those dear ones who have lost all because of a tragedy.

In Luke 9:23 we are told to take up our cross and follow Him. We should now be willing to give to others. We will receive a blessing from the Lord for God loves a cheerful giver.

When Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, He looked to the Father, the source of life. He realized He only could win by giving Himself. Only by giving up His own will or desire to God's highest will could He bring forth the thing He wanted most. He was raised from the dead, that others might have a hope of Salvation and a new life. I often think of the widow's mite. Jesus said she gave the most. Our Blessed Saviour gave His life. He gave all He had. "Not my will, but thine be done." We realize if it wasn't for the cross, the giving of Christ's life and the Resurrection, we could have no resurrection.

I think giving is an expression of one's love. Love in action is moving out of self into the way of God. How many of us are willing to go the second mile? Could one give without loving? If Jesus is in our lives we will have a spirit of giving and want to share with others in need. Christ wants us to share His love with others. By doing this we will receive a blessing.

Let us give more of our lives to the Master in searching for lost souls. May God help us to see the need around us and give ourselves to further His Kingdom while we are still dwelling here below and in the end we will receive a home in the Land He has prepared for the faithful.

Sister E. M. Alltus

IF GOD SO LOVED US

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another."
I John 4:11.

In I Corinthians 13:13 we are told that now abideth faith, hope and charity. Charity is the greatest of the three. It is because God loved the world so much that He sent Jesus to live and die for us. And we should love one another because Jesus first loved us. It is the love of Jesus that first attracts the sinner to Him. It is the love of the saints that first attracts the sinner into the house of God.

If a loved one is ill, we will do all we can do to see that that person is cured, or helped or made comfortable. If a loved one is dying, we will go to the ends of the earth and use up all our living to get that person cured. Such is the love that even the heathen has. How much greater should our love be toward God and towards one

another. What is it that causes us to continue our Christian walk day after day? In II Corinthians 5:14 we are told that the love of Christ constraineth us. The word "constrain" here means to secure as if by bonds. We can therefore rest assured that His love secures us day by day and that we have no reason to fear because He once loved us, He loves us presently, and He will continue to do so. And our natural reaction to this love is to love Him back, though we cannot do so perfectly.

How is our love then one to another? John 13:35 states that by this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. We see very little true coming to the Lord and very little true repentance today because there is very little love between the brethren. And why is this? In Matthew 24:12 we read, "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." Sin is the reason why so many no longer love God or the saints. Today in the modern church there is such coldness, such a competitive spirit, and such a lack of spirituality that the average person is no longer attracted. When we read in old books like *SOME WHO LED* it seems that there were many that came. Meetings, even communion services, were crowded with outsiders. Was it not because then the brethren had a genuine love for each other and the people of that day recognized this love and wanted it for themselves? Have we been too long in acquiring the riches of this world and now we cease to recognize our needs and the needs of others? Does the world look at us and see just another worldly, grasping, greedy group of people with nothing to offer them, let alone the very Son of God? Maybe each and everyone of us needs to reevaluate ourselves in the light of God's Holy Word to see where we have failed. Is it or is it not so that the church today is closer to the world than it was in times past? Does not the scripture prove this? I believe it is high time that we the church recognize this problem and put the blame squarely where it belongs: upon us.

Is it not true that there is five percent of the church that does ninety-five percent of the work, while ninety-five percent do the other five percent? Can one with perfect love for his brother sit by and let his brother do it all? I think not. We must ask God to help us in this endeavor because it will not get any easier. Some of our brethren are not easy to love, but we must love them just the same. Maybe our love to them might be just the thing to soften them up.

Lynn Hayes Miller

RD #2 Box 561

Newmanstown, PA 17073



Fools live, but do not learn.

THE DOCTRINE OF THE DUNKARD BRETHREN CHURCH

FEETWASHING

16.

John 13 There is a command in GOD'S WORD
That many CHURCHES fail to obey,
JESUS taught it to HIS DISCIPLES
CHRISTIANS are to practice it today.

17.

John 13:4-5 ... JESUS arose from a prepared supper
That was made ready in advance,
Before HE and the DISCIPLES did eat
HE authored the feet-washing ORDINANCE.

18.

John 13:4-5 ... HE took a towel and girded HIMSELF
HE then poureth water into a basin,
After HE washed the disciples feet
With the towel about HIM, HE wiped them.

19.

John 13:6-8 ... When JESUS came to SIMON PETER
Peter said, "You'll never wash my feet."
"If I wash thee not," said JESUS
"You shall have no part with ME."

20.

John 13:8 Reader, stop and think and pray
When JESUS your judge you meet,
Do you want no part with JESUS
Because you refused to wash feet?

21.

John 13:9-10 ... PETER became very submissive
"Wash my feet, my hands and my head."
"Baptized ones need only wash feet,"
Is what JESUS to PETER said.

22.

In closing the FEET-WASHING subject
"Do as I have done unto you,"
JESUS said, "Wash ye one another's feet
You will be happy if you do."

- Brother Paul R. Myers

THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES

A NEW CREATURE

J. H. Moore

Every person born into the kingdom becomes a new creature in Christ Jesus. In the baptism of water and of the Spirit there is a putting off of the old man, and a putting on of the new man. (Col. 3:10) It is a burial of the old man of sin, and the coming forth of the new man. It is the act of putting on Christ in the rite of holy baptism (Gal. 3:27), and we are told that "if a man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away." (II Cor. 5:17) There is a new heart, a renewed spirit, and a new purpose of life. On entering the kingdom, he starts as a new-born babe; he grows as a new man, being a new creature, — spiritually speaking, — a new creation, begotten by the Word of Truth. Fed on the sincere milk of the Word, he lives a new and a different life. The things he once hated he will now love, and the things he once loved he will now hate. He thus lives and grows until the full stature in Christ Jesus is reached.

NEWS ITEMS

WINTERHAVEN, CALIFORNIA

The Winterhaven Congregation has changed its set Lovefeast date to the first Saturday in February.

Revival Meetings will be held by Bro. Ray Reed, Dallas Center, Iowa February 3 through 7, 1988 with Lovefeast on the 6th. Everyone is welcome to come to these meetings or to any of our services.

Sister Susan Cook, Cor.

NOTICE

The Dunkard Brethren Church directories are ready. The cost is \$3.00 post paid. It would be easier for me if you would order in quantity, but I will send any amount.

Sister Jolene Andrews
312 E. Coleman Road
Raymore, MO 64083

PRIMARY LESSONS FOR 1988

Sunday School Lessons for the Primary classes are available from the Bible Study Board. The lessons for 1988 are "Bible Treasures for Children." These lessons are available from Bro. Fred Pifer, R. 3 Box 184, Adel, Iowa 50003.

Brother Dennis St. John, Sec.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JANUARY 1988

January 3 - Six Days of Creation - Gen. 1:1-31.

1. How old is the earth?
2. What Biblical evidence refutes evolution?

January 10 - The Garden of Eden - Creation of Woman - Gen. 2:1-25.

1. In what country would the Garden be today?
2. What was the blessed outcome of the first surgery?

January 17 - Deception of Eve; The Fall of Man - Gen. 3:1-34.

1. How does Adam's fall affect us today? I Cor. 15:22.
2. In what form does Satan come to us today? II Cor. 11:14.

January 24 - Cain, Abel & Seth - Gen. 4:1-26.

1. What led Cain to kill Abel?
2. What offering does God ask of us? Rom. 12:1, 2.

January 31 - The Patriarchs; The Wickedness of Man - Gen. 5:1-32; Gen. 6:1-8.

1. Why did God spare eight souls? Gen. 6:8.
2. What will be the conditions that precede Christ's return? Matt. 24:37.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JANUARY 1988

January 3 - Our Birthright - Gen. 25:27-34; Jn. 7:38-39; Jn. 8:27-28; Heb. 11:24-26; Heb. 12:16-17.

1. What was a birthright in Abraham's time?
2. What is our birthright today?

January 10 - The New Birth - Ezek. 36:26-28; Jn. 1:13; Jn. 3:3-8; Ro. 6:4-6; II Cor. 5:17; I Peter 1:23-25.

1. What is the New Birth?
2. What changes will follow the New Birth?

January 17 - Baptism of Christ - Matt. 3:13-17; Luke 3:21-23; Jn. 1:29-38.

1. Why was the "Sinless One" baptized?
2. How important is water baptism?

January 24 - Christian Perfection - Gen. 17:1-2; Matt. 5:48; Matt. 19:21-30; II Cor. 13:11; Ja. 1:4; Ja. 2:21-24; Ja. 3:2; Heb. 6:11.

1. What is our standard of perfection? Eph. 4:13.
2. What is the bond of perfectness? Col. 3:14.

January 31 - Investments - Matt. 6:19-24; Luke 12:29-37; Phill. 3:12-14; Rev. 3:16-18.

1. What do WE treasure?
2. Where is our treasure laid up?